THE HISTORY OF

Portesmouth, Portsea, Gosport,

AND THEIR ENVIRONS.

5-2 a
579. c. 46
13

THE ANCIENT

AND

Modern History

OF

PORTESMOUTH, PORTSEA,

GOSPORT,

AND THEIR ENVIRONS.

ISLAND of Bliss, admidst the subject seas,
That thunder round thy rocky coast, set up;
At once the wonder, terror and delight
Of distant Nations; whose remotest shores
Can soon be shaken by thy naval arm;
Not to be shook thyself, but all assaults
Baffling; as thy hoar cliffs the loud sea wave.

THOMSON.

GOSPORT:

Printed and Sold by J. WATTS;

Sold by W. MATTHEWS, Broad-Street, Portesmouth; and
T. N. LONGMAN, and O. REES, Pater-noster Row,
LONDON.

(Entered at Stationers-Hall.)

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

PREFACE.

IMPORTANT as this grand Naval Arsenal is to the NATION, as the centre of her Maritime Empire; and so highly distinguished as an object of individual curiosity: it naturally must excite some surprise, that no adequate description of it has ever been presented to the public. In some measure to remedy this deficiency, and impressed with an idea of its utility to visitors of every rank, as well as a source of information even to Residents; the EDITOR offers this present view: in the prosecution of which undertaking, he has spared neither Pains nor Expence, in order to obtain necessary information, to render his Publication worthy of a favourable reception. When indeed the magnitude of the objects is considered, the utility of a regular series of directions to the inquisitive stranger is fully apparent. As the first repository in the World for every necessary to a Naval War, PORTSMOUTH is confessedly of the utmost importance to Britain; possessing a secure and capacious Harbour with a noble Road; the Rendezvous of the most formidable Navy

that ever existed; it stands unrivalled, both in the annals of Roman grandeur, and on a comparative view of modern improvement. In point of magnificence and perhaps also in some degree, with respect to accommodation, it may be more than equalled by *Toulon* or *Brest;* nor attract so much wonder and admiration, as the stupendous Works of *Carlscroon:* but with regard to general convenience, its excellence is universally acknowledged; while the animation of the scene, as the grand receptacle of victorious Fleets, must affect the breast of every Englishman with the most lively emotions.

We are liable to entertain melancholy reflections, on comparing the works of the Moderns with those of the Ancients; how trifling our exertions appear when opposed to those stupendous piles which neither the silent lapse of time, nor the fury of civil commotions has been able totally to subvert; we regard them with reverence, while we seem to lose in the comparison: but a view of the glorious scenes here displayed elevates our ideas, the splendid spectacle of a First Rate Man of War sailing majestically along, seeming to command the waves, shews, at least in one point; our superiority to the so highly vaunted achievements of the Lords of the World.

The magnificence of a Fleet under sail almost surpasses the powers of description! but a consideration

of the power it confers, the protection it affords to our Commerce, the security which it gives to our Island, and the respect it commands from surrounding Nations, awakens the most glorious sensations: the Spectator on beholding the armaments of his country returning triumphant, with the captive ships of an humbled Enemy in their train, the British flag waving over the hostile banners; regards the scene with the most heartfelt joy; and with a concious pride exclaims, "I too am a BRITON."

This unbounded dominion originates in a circumstance in which our superiority to the nations of Antiquity is decidedly manifest; namely, our extensive commerce; a commerce of which the boldest genius could then scarce form the most distant idea. Confined as they were by their want of skill to the shores of the Mediteranean, those were regarded with astonishment who burst the narrow limits, and visited the then inhospitable land of Britain. But what would be their sensations, could they now see those whom they once contemptuously styled "*Divisos Orbe Britannos*" rulers of the Ocean, bridging it with their Fleets, uniting Nations who were entire strangers to each other, and penetrating to the most distant regions, carrying the arts of civilization into countries which never heard of the Greek and Roman name: opposing to the researches of the Phœnicians and the exploits of

a Nearchus or Agricola, the perseverance of the British nation, and the successful enterprises of a DRAKE an ANSON or a COOK: thus the improvement of Navigation, aided by our local situation and the genius of the people, has raised this Nation to its present eminence among the inhabitants of Earth; and enabled us to establish a most tremendous power and exhibit the present wonderful scene of such unparalled magnificence and grandeur.

Yet brilliant as this display at present is, there was a time when this tract was comparatively a Desert; presenting to the view, impenetrable Woods, uncultivated Plains, or trackless Morasses; the retreat of rude and unlettered Savages; or the haunt of Beasts of prey. We trace with difficulty the progress of its improvement, in the dubious accounts of the Sovereignty of the Romans, or the obscurer legends of the Saxon monarchy; its History then becomes clearer, till we see this once desolate region assuming its present appearance, affording a noble instance of what exertions a free people are capable: what may not be expected from the British character, as well in a warlike capacity, as in the dignified and useful occupation of a British Merchant.

That these labours have not been thrown away on an unfavourable spot, the most cursory view will easily inform us: the commanding situation, the noble Har-

bour, the secure and capacious Road could not fail of attracting attention: indeed few situations so completely unite every advantage, none are so well secured on every side; the most celebrated Ports of Europe, are often either difficult of access, exposed to the insults of an enemy, and frequently rendered insecure by the prevalence of particular Winds. If then ever any exhibition of the works of nature or art, claimed admiration and attention; surely the Town and Environs of Portsmouth must hold a distinguished rank.

Amongst the multiplicity of objects in this favoured Island, this is certainly preeminent; here every thing is concentred that can afford pleasure to the senses, or affect the Heart. The idle prejudices to which Sea Ports and particularly this, are liable; and the unpardonable misrepresentations of the careless and inattentive of the interested and designing, which have deterred many from visiting it, will easily be removed by a personal inspection. Few are those happy situations that are not liable to some inconvenience; few where the contagious influence of Vice is not predominant: that this place is peculiarly exposed to these ills, may fairly be denied; all scenes of tumultuous revelry being confined to particular districts, beyond which they have no effect.

The reports of its insalubrity are moreover decidedly erroneous; the ground neither being marshy nor

exposed to inundations; the Air being constantly agitated by the flux and reflux of the tides; and above all, the longevity of the Inhabitants sufficiently refute this assertion: often indeed do thus Countries suffer, by the idle clamours of the ignorant; or the blindness of the prejudiced. These false impressions once removed; PORTSMOUTH will form no ineligible residence: from its vicinity to the Sea, it enjoys the advantage of Bathing in a very superior degree, in many other places, the Water is rendered unfit by the influx of Rivers; or dangerous and inconvenient by the want of shelter; here on the contrary, neither of these objections can possibly be made; the purity of the Water is notorious; while in consequence of its fortunate exposure, it is seldom tempestuous. Nor are the more elegant amusements wanting here, every pleasure to be derived from well regulated Assemblies, excellent Theatres, and the charms of music; all the numerous agremens of polished society are easily attained; the noble walks and sublime views afford both to the contemplative Philosopher and the lover of picturesque effect, the highest gratification; while well supplied Markets, and the frequency of conveyances both by Land and Water, to every part of the Kingdom, equally administer to public convenience.

The Summer is naturally pointed out as the most proper season for visiting Portsmouth, as then the

various beauties can be seen to the greatest advantage; but it is not particularly confined to that time of the Year; at any season this glorious scene may be fully enjoyed; nor at any, is it debarred the inspection of the curious, or the visits of the Traveller. Those who wish to see the Town to the greatest advantage, should make their entry from the Sea, as from thence it undoubtedly makes the noblest appearance; and it may reasonably be presumed on a fair review of every circumstance, that few who are induced to include this place in their Tour, will find themselves disappointed. In the present contest it is peculiar interesting, almost every step presents us with Trophies of Naval Triumphs, every corner resounds with the exertions of British perseverance, every view discovers the glorious effects of British energy: if ever attention was excited by any objects of curiosity, it must be, by those animating ones here displayed at every turn; if ever emulation was roused, it must be by those examples of Heroism of which we here view such glorious memento's; if ever the love of our Country glowed in our bosoms, it must do so, at these proofs of the great and victorious struggles of our gallant Countrymen; struggles, on the success of which the preservation of all prosperity, the welfare of our Land, and the existence of all society must ultimately depend.

Thus far we have proceeded with firmness and been

rewarded with glory; nor will the Sons of Britain ever cease till it is brought to an honourable termination, with glory to themselves and security to the World. Little indeed is that man to be envied, who will not find his courage roused by such animating, such noble prospects; and whose Patriotism will not gain additional force, while here beholding the resources of his Country; while hearing the acclamations of Victory, and viewing the rewards of the Hero; who can behold with phlegmatic indifference his Countrymen returning crowned with conquest and glory. On the whole then, we may safely pronounce Portsmouth and its Environs, worthy the vestigation of all: and if this scheme should prove serviceable to its visitors, the Editor will consider himself as highly fortunate and amply recompenced in vindicating from misrepresentation, and reccommending to Public Notice, the best defence of our Island, and the safeguard of the BRITISH CROWN.

THE

THE ANCIENT

AND MODERN HISTORY,

OF

PORTESMOUTH, PORTSEA,

GOSPORT,

AND THEIR ENVIRONS.

ISLAND of Bliss, admidst the subject Seas,
That thunder round thy Rocky Coast, set up:
At once the Wonder, Terror and Delight
Of distant Nations; whose remotest Shores
Can soon be shaken by thy Naval Arm;
Not to be shook thyself, but all Assaults
Baffling; as thy Hoar Cliffs the loud Sea Wave.

THOMSON.

WHEN we consider the grandeur and opulence of Great Britain, almost unparalled on the face of the Globe: when we reflect on that power so formidable to the whole World: when we see that wealth, and that force displayed in a country, in point of magnitude, and natural advantages far inferior to many of the greater nations of Earth; we discover the

glorious effects of that rational liberty established by our Ancestors, we discern the fruits of that industry peculiar to this people; and that energy of character, which extended their commerce to so stupendous a height; and for its protection formed that unequalled navy that has led them to the sovereignty of the Seas. As the grand point then where this amazing strength is concentrated; as the great repository of those floating bulwarks that secure these inestimable blessings and so imperiously command respect from all; Portesmouth and the adjacent district must claim our undivided attention; and surely be accounted worthy the most minute investigation.

The earlier accounts of this place are involved in much obscurity, the history indeed of the more remote periods, particularly in the darker ages and of a country so distant from the more civilized part of mankind, is traced with difficulty and generally disguised by fiction. The first settlement of which we are informed was known by the name of port Peris, generally supposed to have been that afterwards called Portchester, it does not seem probable that it acquired its new appellation from the Saxon Porta who is asserted to have landed here, in the reign of Aurelius Ambrosius the son of Constantine; the least attention to the etymology of the word, plainly shewing that it takes its derivation from its situation, evidently

signifying the castle of the port, Ptolemy expressly calls it the great port, from its spaciousness: it seems moreover to have received it from the Romans: their establishments consisting of military stations, the word Castra being afterwards corrupted into Chester or Cester, the usual termination of the names of those towns founded by that victorious people. The reports of erections here by the ancient Britons, must be extremely dubious; according to some authors a castle was erected here about the time of the foundation of Rome, by Peris the second son of Sisil the founder of Silchester: who on the invasion of his dominions by his brother; to prevent any similar misfortune for the future, constructed a fortification in this place. Stow asserts that a town of some consequence was here built by Gurgonstus the son of Beline, near three centuries before the coming of Christ. Both these accounts may in some measure be true, some rude place of defence, like those Cæsar found on his arrival in Britain, might be contrived by the then rude inhabitants as retreats from the hostile incursions of ferocious neighbours. In such a situation probably a large assemblage of hutts, for the purpose of mutual security, the convenience of fishing, or the resort of Foreign traders, might here be made and dignified with the appellation of city. Uncertain however as these accounts may be, it is yet generally agreed, that Vespasian visited this place; when he held a com-

mand as we are informed by Suetonius, partly under Aulus Plautius and partly under the Emperor Claudius himself, in his expedition to the Isle of Wight; He probably struck with the advantage of its position, would pay attention to it, much improve any town here before built, and be led to secure it by the usual modes of defence.

Much of the present building is Norman: Henry the first paid particular attention to it and founded there a priory of cannons of the order of St. Augustine, afterwards removed to Southwick. But important as Portchester had been, it nevertheless soon declined; the gradual withdrawing of the sea and the accumulation of the banks soon rendered it unfit for the purposes to which a maritime town is generally destined. Struck by the commanding situation of the present town of Portesmouth the inhabitants moved thither and gave its appellation from its position at the entrance of the harbour; it soon grew into that degree of importance as to be thought worthy of being secured by every mode of fortification then in use. The principal works were begun by Edward the fourth, continued by Richard the third, by the seventh and eight Henry; and in the opinion of the age of Elizabeth perfectly completed. Camden speaks in the highest terms of it, regarding it as impregnable, and impossible to be exceeded: nor is the

commendation of it by Edward the sixth in a letter to his favourite Fitzpatrick; on his progress here to improve and strengthen it; any way inferior. But how wonderful is it altered since those times both in respect to extent and strength as well as the magnificence of the fortifications and docks.

The genius of Britain rests not satisfied with the proudest attainments, regards not the highest efforts of human industry, as her *ne plus ultra;* but aiming at the noblest flights, soars above others, in the employments of peace, or the exertions of war still maintaining her accustomed superiority. Nothing can be a more striking proof of this assertion, than a view of the present condition of this district: every Port naturally increases, naturally acquires superior elegance, augmentation and convenience. But when we behold the slow progression of other towns; and the almost inconceivably rapid improvement of Portesmouth we are struck with astonishment: we view with surprise the comparative difference between the state of the place and of its navy at this time and in the reign of the house of Tudor. Greatly augmented by succeeding monarchs and particularly by Charles the second as it has been, it has yet been lately extended and secured by so very superior a line of fortification, as justly particularly on the sea side, to be deemed impregnable; while the vast

increase of population and consequently of commerce, totally sets aside the idea of Camden, "that Portesmouth is populous in time of war, but by no means so in peace; and seems more inclined to the arts of Mars and Neptune, than those of Mercury." Such being at present its state, that there is now far more animation even in the most tranquil times than when it resounded with the sound of the trumpet and the discharge of artillery. Nor was this place less attended to by the founders of religious establishments, and their usual concomitants of public schools and charitable endowments. The celebrated William of Wickham, the liberal bestower of those magnificent public seminaries, the college at Winchester and new college in Oxford; has been said to have erected here, a monastery called God's house, of which in the year 1367 his brother was prior; at the dissolution of religious houses converted into a government house: but Camden and others attribute it with more probability to Peter de Rupibus bishop of Winchester: adjoining to this was also an hospital, of which all traces are destroyed. The erection of the church is also ascribed to the same prelate, but there are also great reasons for assigning it to the time of Thomas a Becket, it being dedicated to him and still bears that title: it might however have received considerable additions and been so literally endowed by the Bishop, as to have caused its full establishment and erection to

have been attributed to him. Exclusive also of several inferior establishments, a grammar school was founded here by Dr. Smith, a Physician of this place, under the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Christ-church, Oxford, with a commodious and handsome house for the residence of the principal master. An alms house for eight poor Widows has been endowed by the liberality of a Mr. BURGESS, nor while thus attentive to these important objects was the administration of the police neglected.

Portesmouth was first incorporated by Richard the first, in the fifth year of his reign, and the second of May, 1191: at which time the present wonderfully frequented fair was granted, originally commencing on St. Peters day, being the twenty ninth of June; but by the alteration of the style it now opens on the tenth of July, and continues fifteen days. A weekly market was established on Thursdays, but in consequence of the great increase of the town and the large additions to the navy, it was found necessary to add two more days, Tuesday and Saturday; the last of which is usually the best attended.

The civil government of the town is vested in the corporation, consisting of a Mayor, Recorder, twelve Aldermen, and Burgesses unlimited; succeeding kings gave them fresh charters and greatly enlarg-

ed and confirmed their privileges. That which they now enjoy was given by Charles the first, who conferred on them many immunities: indeed such is the importance of this town to the whole British Empire; that we may be well assured, that no attention will be wanting to regulate its internal policy. And the strenuous exertions made by the present highly respectable magistrates, during a late arduous period, reflect on them the highest honor; and will ever entitle them, with those inhabitants who so well supported them in the day of trial to the highest estimation in the eyes of a discerning and grateful public. For the transaction of public business, a neat and commodious town Hall has been erected in the high-street, and considerably improved in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety six, during the Mayoralty of John Godwin Esq. This borough has sent two Members to Parliament from the time of Edward the first, in the year 1298; in the twentieth year of his reign. It is natural to suppose that among the various civil commotions or foreign invasions that have agitated this Island, a place of such importance must at different time have been exposed to the calamities incident to those periods: and must also have made a conspicuous figure in the annals of those transactions. Accordingly we find it noticed as the landing place of the Empress Matilda, in 1139 on her competition for the crown with Stephen; the army collected for the in-

tended invasion of France by Henry the third, in 1229 was mustered in this place. In the unfortunate and turbulent reign of Richard the second, the French made a successful attempt on this town, and plundered and destroyed it; a few years after however the inhabitants were signally revenged; for on a second attack upon it, when rebuilt, they were completely defeated and lost their whole fleet without the exception of a single ship. Elated with this success, the English retaliated severely on the French, attacking them on their own coasts and extending their ravages on both sides of the Seine, struck terror and alarm into the capital itself, returned loaded with the richest plunder and crowned with glory.

In the reign however of the eighth Henry it was again exposed to danger; Francis the first in 1545 sent a fleet to surprise it, which engaged the English squadron then lying there and consisting only of six Ships. In this action the Admiral's ship, the Mary Rose, commanded by Sir George Carew: either owing to mismanagement, or the weight of her ordnance, was sunk; the captain, several young men of rank and the greatest part of the crew were lost. The French however were compelled to retreat, and were only able to effect a landing on the *Isle of Wight*; notwithstanding this disgrace to the armament of

France, the king caused it to be notified to the Foreign Ambassadors that he had rendered himself master of Portesmouth. A view of the town, with this event was painted on the wall of the dining parlour of Cowdry house; (since unfortunately destroyed by fire) but it has been preserved by an engraving made by order of the society of antiquarians, and described by sir Joseph Ayloff. Here also was the rendzevous of the armaments under Charles the first: for the relief of the Protestants of France: during the eqnipment of which in 1628, the Duke of Buckingham was stabbed by Felton: here also Charles the second was married to the infanta of Portugal. There is yet also a stone in the old goverment house, with an inscription congratulating his unfortunate father on his landing here when returned from his travels.

This town was one of the first that returned to its allegiance, at the restoration; although it had long been in the hands of the parliament even from the very commencement of that unhappy commotion. Nothing particularly interesting with respect to the general history of the country, more than the common train of events peculiar to sea ports, as armaments, naval engagements, &c. most of which are too well known, and too fresh in the memory, to require a place in a publication of such contracted limits,

has occured, till the late distressing scenes, the dreadful consequences of which have however by the firmness and loyalty of the people of England been averted, and peace and good order restored. That this may long continue and Portesmouth long flourish as the first bulwark of the British empire, and the terror of its enemies, must surely be the ardent prayer of every well wisher to the prosperity of these yet happy realms.

TOWN OF PORTESMOUTH.

This ancient City,
How proudly sits she amidst Nature's Smiles:
Nor from her highest Turrets has to view
But Golden Landscapes and Luxuriant Scenes;
Here fruitful Plains far stretching to the Sight,
There Sails unumber'd whiten all the Waves.

YOUNG.

ON a comparison of the town of Portesmouth with other emporiums and naval arsenals we cannot but regard it as very highly favoured by nature, and be greatly struck with its advantageous position. Situated to the south-east of the entrance of that noble harbour which spreading its waters to a considerable distance, and forming several small islands, within a circuit of nearly twenty miles; and uniting at its north-eastern extremity by a small creek with another large expanse called Langston harbour forms the noble and fertile island of Portsea, communicates by other waters and creeks with a fine tract of country as far as Chichester and opens to one of the finest roads in

the world; its excellence in every respect must be obvious to the most casual observer. Nor is it less fortunate in point of security: while our naval power naturally precludes the idea of any attack on the sea side; those very same waters that so materially contribute to its convenience and importance, guard it against any sudden surprize by land; and if they do not render the approach of an enterprising enemy impracticable, yet they must be allowed to create much difficulty, and by lessening the number of the points of defence, cause very considerable impediments to the progress of an hostile invader: Surely then, as combining every advantage both of convenience and security: but few ports can be considered as equal none superior.

The view of the town from the sea is extremely magnificent; a stranger on his approach from Spithead enjoys this impressive spectacle in its highest glory—He sees a vast expanse of waters, covered with vessels, from the light and airy skiff dancing on the agitated waves, to the majestic first-rate, and crowned with objects of the most interesting nature guarded by formidable fortresses; and adorned with splendid edifices; surrounded by extensive plains, interspersed with a variety and abundance of foliage; and backed by the extensive and airy summit of Portsdown.

The approach from Gosport is equally fine: to the left is seen the harbour crowded with innumerable vessls, the Gun-wharf, Portsea, and the extensive buildings in the Dock-yard: to the right the Royal-hospital at Haslar, Blockhouse fort, with a view of Spithead, and the entrance of the harbour—while the town Quay and the ships near it, with the opening of Point-street, consisting of handsome and substantial house, on a finely elevated beach attract our notice in front. The traveller who visits Portesmouth from the land side, certainly has not the same advantages, but he is amply compensated for their loss, by the magnificience of the view from Portsdown which presents to him the country spread out like a map before him, enables him to trace out the different objects, and prepares him for those which await his inspection. His view after having passed the barrier at Ports-bridge, becomes much impeded by buildings and inclosures. An occasional glance however of the harbour, and some few scenes worthy his attention, particularly the seat of Sir Roger Curtis at Gatcomb serve in some measure to relieve the tædium, that must necessarily be occasioned by the abrupt transition from the commanding height of Portsdown, to the flat of the island of Portsea: he must also feel much pleasure in perceiving the great increase of population, and the number of houses

that extend themselves on every side. On the consideration of these scenes, it must forcibly occur to his imagination, how extensive in their operation must be the effects of those exertions of which this town is the centre. The grand break between the two towns; the junction of the old and new lines, and the works of Portesmouth covered with noble trees, next prsent themselves: and to a person that has never visited a fortified town undoutedly form a novel and striking exibition.

The lake that separates the towns, skirted on one side by the building of Portsea, and on the other by the tree crowned works of Portesmouth, and bounded at the extremity by the new lines, produces an elegant effect on our approach from the town of Portsea—the entrance on this side for foot passengers, is through a sally port to the left of the Government mills, but the carriage road is continued along the foot of the works, and enters the town by a gate opposite the Quay. These with the entrance from Point-street already mentioned, and a Sally-port from from Southsea common—and another near the gate from the London road, form the necessary approaches and are found fully sufficient for public and private convenience.

Within this noble circuit is contained a very con-

siderable and well built town: having passed the long bridge, which extending over a wide and deep fosse communicates with the London road, and emerging from a long and gloomy gate way, the effect is pleasing from the contrast; a large space presents itself to the view forming the entrance to several streets, snd commanding on both sides a long perspective of the interior of the works: Nearly in front and on the right of the opening of St. Thomas's street, stands a handsome house appropiated to the residence of the lieutenant governor. Hence we proceed to the High-street, the commencement of which is adorned with some handsome family houses that front the approach; thence it winds to the Market-house, (but for which single interruprion it would form one of the noblest streets in England,) by the grand Parade as far as the Point gate, and the Sally-port: here is the communication with the sea, this gate and landing place being particularly appropiated to the boats attendant on the ships of war at Spithead and St. Helens. The Parade is south of this street and forms a fine opening extending as far as the governors house on the left and the Platform on the right—and having some very good buildings in it, among which the bank holds a very conspicuous place; exclusive of some houses very advantageously situated near the Platform, and commanding

the noblest views from the parade near the government house: Penny-street runs parallel with the High-street. Here besides other respectable edifices, stands the Free school. Some inferior streets, with the Marine barracks, the entrance of which is seen from the High-street, form the remainder of this side of the town. We must not however omit the remark, that this Southern part of the town is by far the least, and also much contracted by the space allotted to the barracks and a large paddock attached to the government house. Parallel to the High-street, towards the North, are St. Thomas and Warblington streets, beyond which are situated the military barracks and behind these a large burrying ground in addition to the church-yard, in St. Thomas's street. At right angles with these runs St. Mary's-street leading to Portsea, from which King-street turns off to the Quay gate. Here are those extensive ranges of building which form the Victualling office: some inferior streets communicate with the High-street and this part of the town, which is in general well built, airy and commodious. In short few towns unite so many advantages, or contribute more to the comfort and convenience of every rank. In the year 1768 an Act of Parliament was obtained for paving the town, which work was completed in 1775 at the expence of nearly nine thousand pounds.

This is kept in repair by a street rate levied in the same manner as that for the poort at an assessment of threepence in the pound. Though this town claims great antiquity, yet so well has it kept pace with the rising spirit of improvement, that comparatively very few of the ancient buildings remain, having give place to, if not the more noble, yet certainly the more convenient edifices of modern architecture.

Among those that remain the Church naturally claims the most distinguished place; not only in respect to the sacred purpose for which such buildings are erected, but in regard to its magnitude. This edifice evidently shews two different dates in its erection. The chancel is by far the most ancient, and built as has already been observed some centuries ago, but the body of the Church is of a far later date being erected in 1693 when the chancel was also altered and improved. The tower of the old Church was in the centre: and two pillars that supported it yet remain incorporated in the modern building; one of which forms the support to the pulpit, and to the other is affixed a list of the benefactors to the organ. This instrument which is remarkably good and well toned, is placed in a gallery at the west end of the Church, and was built by subscription in the year 1718. The arrangement of the seats particularly

the galleries, being rounded off instead of forming a square or resting on the central pillars, and thus rendering the whole more light and airy, has a striking and elegant effect. The communion table is somewhat elevated, railed round, and with the monument behind makes a handsome appearance; near which to the right is a very commodious vestry, for the use of the minister and the transaction of parochial businiess.

It would far exceed our limits, to point out the different monuments and inscriptions, but we cannot pass by the one already mentioned behind the altar without some observation. This was erected to the memory of the unfortunate and unpopular Duke of Buckingham, who in the year 1628 in the reign of Charles the I. was stabbed at a levee while surrounded by his principal offi[illegible], by a gloomy enthusiast of the name of Felton, a lieutenant in one of the regiments ordered for embarkation, but who had resigned in consequence of being refused advancement on the death of his captain who was killed at the isle of Rhe. The duke had come from town purposely to hasten this armament which was intended for the relief of the French protestants, pressed hard in Rochelle by the celebrated ca[illegible] Richlieu. His assasin had also come down to Portes-

mouth for this express purpose. Far from attempting to escape, he confessed and even gloried in the atrocious deed he had just perpetrated, and deeply tinctured with the fanaticism of the times, he considered himself as a martyr in the cause of God and of his country. It was first resolved to punish him by the torture, being more severe, as well as to make him confess: but this idea being opposed by the judges it was relinquished, and he was tried and condemned in the usual manner, and executed at Tyburn. His body being afterwards sent down to Portesmouth, was hanged in chains, a little without the town to the South, where a mark still remains to shew where the gibbet stood; on the monument is an elegant latin inscription, which the necessary brevity of our publication prevents us from inserting. In the centre is a marble urn, which is supposed to contain the heart of that unfortunate nobleman. The present Tower and cupolœ were built some time after the Church—over this is a lanthern containing a bell formerly employed to give notice of the number of ships in the offing, now only used in case of an alarm by fire. This is surmounted by a ship instead of a common weathercock. This idea certainly does honor to the contriver, as nothing can be more appropiate; she is completely rigged, and measures six feet from stem to stern; her flags traverse extremely

well, and present an uncommon and not unpleasing appearance. This Tower is 120 feet high and is visible to a considerable distance, forming an excellent land-mark for ships. It contains a very musical peal of eight bells, five of which were given by Prince George of Denmark, who at the request of Sir George Rooke, had them removed from an old tower in Dover castle; these have been recast and three more added. An excellent set of chimes, the gift of Mr. Brandon in 1703 have been also added, so that this Church is now fully adequate to all the purposes of divine worhip, and is in every respect suitable to the dignity of the town.

At the upper end of the grand Parade stands the government house and chapel. This last is a Gothic building anciently belonging to the monastery called God's house, founded by William of Wykeham, whose brother in the year 1367 was prior: it is now appropriated to the use of the officers and soldiers belonging to his Majesty's garrison: it has lately been repaired and much improved, and forms a spacious, elegant and commodious chapel. The space round this, to a considerable distance and occupying a large portion of the Parade, was originally a burying ground belonging to the monastery. This noble old building, was at the dissolution of religious houses by Henry the VIII. converted into a

a mansion for the residence of the governor of the garrison since which time, very considerable alterations and improvemements have been made in it, particularly by the late Earl of Pembroke ; and it has been rendered extremely elegant and commodious by the present governor the Right Honorable Sir W. A. Pitt, K. B. It has some very handsome and well disposed apartments, which with the advantage of an extensive paddock and the neccessary attached and detached offices, form an eligible residence for any officer who may hold this important command.

We may form some idea of the manner of living of our ancestors, by comparing the present with the old confined and inconvenient government house. This was nothing but a large square stone building at the bottom of High-street ; which was afterwards employed as a magazine, but since the erection of another, it has been degraded into a slaughter house. Such is the revolution of things ; that what formerly was considered as a suitable habitation for persons of the most exalted rank, is now converted to the lowest and most ignoble purposes In the front of this building is a bust of Charles the I. cast in brass, underneath which is the following inscription. "After his travels through France into Spain, and having passed very many dangers both by sea and land, he

arrived here the 5th day of October, 1623. There was the greatest applause of joy for his safety throughout the kingdom, that ever was known or heard off." The house where the murder of the duke of Buckingham his favorite, and companion in this romantic expedition was perpetrated, is still standing in the High-street, nearly opposite the meeting house. There is little else in this town that claims any very particular attention, especially in a publication that must necessarily be contracted within such narrow limits.

Of the more modern erections the fortifications naturally take the lead. This noble circle forms a finely elevated terras, very agreeably shaded with elm so as to afford an extremely pleasant walk of more than a mile and quarter, and kept in the completest order. The varied prospects which these works command, can scarcely be equalled in Europe. From the Platform which afford a very excellent and pleasant promenade, we are presented with a very magnificent view of Spithead, the isle of Wight rising immediately before us, with its beautiful blue hills; while on the right we perceive the opening of the Southampton water, and the extensive ranges of building at Haslar: and on the left the sea covered with innumerable vessels of every description, their white sails gradually lessening 'till they are lost in the distance;

while others entering or going out of harbour, pass in review before us: affording on the whole a spectacle, highly striking and magnificent, the effect of which is particularly heightened in a summers evening at sun set; when the martial music on board the several ships echoing far and near: and the various sounds gradually lessening from the loud burst of the signal gun, and Parade drums, to the faint reports from the more distant vessel, cannot but be extremely gratifying to every spectator.

Nor are the prospects less pleasing in the remaining circuit; particularly of Portsea rising beyond the lake, and that of the harbour: and to a person unacquainted with the modern modes of fortification, as he may have it in his power to contrast them with the ancient manner of defence in the remains of the extensive and noble castle of Portchester. These works have been much improved in the late reigns and possess a considerable degree of strength, especially as the lake, the sea and the inundation, prevent any approaches on three sides: they are furnished with bastions, ravelins, counterscarp and other outworks, well provided with cannon: and toward the sea they are particularly formidable. The military appointed for their defence, are well lodged; as exclusive of the marine barracks above mentioned: there are very capital barracks fronting the works be-

tween St. Thomas's gate and the Sally-port leading to Portsea; with a very convenient parade. A new barrack has also been lately erected near that for the Marines, capable of containing a considerable body of men; they have likewise apartments and every suitable accommodation for the officers. The marine barrack is built round a large court, and is a very extensive building; here the marines belonging to this division are quartered, and are always in readiness to embark on board their respective ships. This ground was originally occupied by the king's brewhouse and cooperage, but this was removed to Gosport as being more convenient in every respect—there are also accommodations for a company of artillery and for invalids. There is a guard house near St. Thomas's gate; but the main guard house is on the grand Parade, in which there is sufficient space to review three regiments at the same time: this is indeed almost the only open spot in the town, and communicates by an easy ascent with the lines and the Platform, and leads to the view of those scenes which can never cease to afford delight as long as the beauties of art and nature claim any attention, and will ever raise admiration and the most lively and animated sensations of pleasure, as long as British bosoms shall glow with one spark of virtue and patriotism.

The lieutenant Governor's residence is at a house already mentioned at the top of St. Thomas's Street, purchased by government some time ago for that purpose; it has received very considerable additions and having the advantage of a considerable garden, and a pleasant situation, possesses every convenience and advantage that so populous a town can possibly afford. The port Admiral's house, which noble mansion is situated near the centre of the High-street, has been lately purchased by the admiralty board and fitted up in a very elegant style for the residence of the port admiral, there is a large and convenient office annexed with other necessary arrangements suitable to the dignity of that important command.

The Victualling office is a large edifice in King-street, with a noble house fronting St. Thomas's-street for the agent victualler the principal officer attached to this department; adjoining to this is a large store-house occupying the whole length of the street, and containing the provisions and liquors for the supply of the royal navy. Here are large ranges of building where the beef and pork are salted, the buiscuit baked and other stores provided for this service.

The grain used in this office is ground at the King's Mills, a large building about a quarter of a mile from the Quay-gate, erected by government at an

expence of nearly 7,000l. It is raised on immence piles from 25 to 30 feet long shod with iron. This expensive foundation was necessary on account of ground being remarkable marshy. This mill is worked by a great stream of salt water received from the harbour every tide by means of a great sluice into an extensive lake separating the two towns: this sluice is closed at high water and on the ebbing of the tide the water is worked back again into the harbour. This erection not only contributes to the strength of the town on this side, by keeping always a certain depth of water in the lake, and thus preventing any approaches on that side; but will also serve in case of a siege as being within the lines and secure from attack, to grind for the garrison and inhabitants. This building though not immediately within the works of Portesmouth, is mentioned in this place on account of its connection with the victualling office.

All affairs relative to the internal police of the town and district and the administration of its civil government are usually transacted at the Town house situated in the middle of the High-street. For these purposes a court of record is held every Tuesday excepting at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, in which any person may be held to bail for a debt not less than Forty shillings. Within a month after the two seasons of Easter and Michaelmas two sessions

of the peace are held here, when all petty larcenies and small offences are tried; but nothing capital can be determined here. This Hall has been considerable enlarged and improved: this took place in the mayoralty of John Godwin, Esq. in the year 1796. The council room is supported by stone columns forming by no means an inelegant portico, under which is a well sheltered market, and were it not that it seems injudiciously situated and lessens the beauty and confines and interrupts the course of the street, it might be deemed a considerable ornament to the town.

The town Prison commonly known by the name of the White House: for the confinement of petty offenders, and the correction of the lawless and profligate, and a temporary receptacle for felons and others, previous to their being sent to the county goal, is a large well secured house, containing apartments for the different classes of prisoners, and an examining and other rooms, is immediately adjoining to the crown inn in the High-street, and separated from the pavement by an iron railing—and from the well known character of the respectable Magistrates of this town, we may be fully persuaded that every attention is paid to the comfort and convenience of its unfortunate inhabitants.

The Free school, mention of which has been already made in our historical sketch, is a genteel house

in Penny-street, under the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Oxford, with an endowment for a principal master to superintend the classical department, and a mathematical master. There are also alms houses for eight widows the benefaction of Mr. Burgess: and other establishments for the poor, usual in large towns. The Workhouse is situated in Warblington-street.

It will not be amiss to mention here: that exclusive of the parish church and governor's chapel, there is a dissenting meeting house in High-street, one in Oyster-street, and another in St. Thomas's-street,

Before we proceed in our remarks it will be necessary to make some mention of the Western suburb, known by the name of Portesmouth Point; as it may certainly be considered as an integral part of Portesmouth. It consists principally of one large populous well built street named Broad-street, the others being small, narrow and obscure. This serves as a continuation of the High-street, Portesmouth, and being the grand point of communication with Spithead, the Harbour and Gosport consequently exhibits a very crowded and animating scene. In this street is situated the Custom house, a large and commodious building on the North side. This is under the di-

rection of the usual officers, and serves for the regulation of the commerce of the three towns, and the adjacent district; it is provided with several stout fast sailing cutters for the capture of smugglers, commanders of which are extremely alert in the prosecution of their duty, and the detection of offenders, in a point where the public revenue is so materially concerned. This part of the town is admirably situated for commerce, the inhabitants on the North side having generally an immediate communication with the water, and the ships laying near the Quay. The place where the merchant ships lie, is in a large bay between the Gun-wharf and the Point, having the advantage of an excellent Quay and all its appropiate appendages. This communicates with Portesmouth by a large gate, denominated the Quay gate from its situation, leading directly to the victualling office: and with Portsea by a road by the king,s mills and Gunwharf. The Excise office is in Lombard-street.

It is but justice to add, that these provisions fully indicate the falsity of the assertion that Portesmouth is not commercial town, but all flourishing in time of war: the contrary is too evident to admit of dispute, and the numbers of trading vessels belonging to or frequenting this port completely demonstrate its fallacy. Nor while thus highly favoured with an extensive

and increasing foreign commerce, is the internal trade neglected; two firmly established banks being here one by Messrs. Griffith and Co. on the Parade, and the other in the High-street by Messrs Grant and Burbey. This town has a very great connection with the adjacent country and forms the centre of a very extensive circle, drawing its supplies from a considerable distance: consequently it has to boast of a well frequented market, held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; it is plentifully supplied with the best butchers meat of all kinds, poultry of every sort, fish, eggs, butter, &c. But it is particularly remarkable for the singular excellence and large quantity of very fine vegetables, in which few towns in England can boast a superiority. Nor can provisions of any kind be considered as dearer here than elsewhere, if we consider the immense demand, especially in war time, when such numerous fleets are lying here; at other times it is much cheaper. The shops and warehouses for articles of every kind are numerous and respectable, in which there are few things but what may be obtained as easily, as well made, and at as cheap a rate as in London. In addition to these, is an uncommonly crowded fair, open to all, called the Free Mart, lasting fifteen days and commencing the tenth of July.

Many of the houses are appropiated to lodgings,

which are in general commodious, well situated and excellent furnished. There are also many houses for the entertainment and accommodations of casual visitors of every rank, the principal of which are the fountain kept by Mr. Fielder, the crown lately in the occupation of Mr. Bradley, now of Mr. Cross from the blue posts in Broad-street, Point; The george inn, Mrs. Palmer, all in the High-street—The blue posts, in Broad-street Point, late Mr. Cross, now Mr. Darby, and the star and garter, Mr. Churcher, and the Parade coffee house opposite the bank, Mr. Silver. Here are also some extensive breweries, particularly those which are the property of Mr. Garrett, of Sir John Carter and Co. and Mr. Deacon, the business of which is extremely extensive, not only from public houses and individuals, but from the very great demand for shipping, contracts, &c.

There are several very handsome houses in this place, of which it will be sufficient to particularize a few. The elegant portico and bow over it in the house in St. Thomas's-street, lately finished by Mr. Garrett, has a charming effect; in St Mary's-street is a good substantial house, lately tenanted by Lord Hood. The bank on the Parade has been already mentioned; and it is unnecessary to enumerate the many respectable buildings, particularly in High.street and Penny-street that offer themselves to the view.

We cannot however pass over those in the Point, particularly the well known one late of Mr. Turner, now turned into an inn: that gentleman having removed into the High-street, which though not distinguished by any peculiarity and elegance of structure, yet from their elevated situation cannot but command attention. Not far distant from this is a large and commodious Bathing-house—whence the place obtains the name of Bathing-house Square: containing four fine baths of different depths. It is situated close to the mouth of the harbour and at every flood is amply supplied with water; there are also good dressing rooms and every other accommodation. But for those who prefer the open sea, Mr. Cross, the master of the crown inn, has with a degree of spirit that does honour to his liberality fitted up in a very superior style several bathing machines with a long room and dressing rooms, on Southsea beach, where the water is certainly the purest and best for sea bathing. Carriages are also in waiting for the convenience of the public. He has also for the accommodation of the navy and army gentlemen fitted up a very commodious coffee room, where the London papers are daily taken in. There are also rooms of this description, and upon the plan of the London coffee rooms, in all the other houses.

Indeed every attention has been paid to the amusement, as well as the convenience of the inhabitants and visitors. A very handsome Theatre, at the upper end of the High-street, is open several months in the year, under the direction of Mr. Collins; who has also some elegant theatres in other places, particularly Winchester and Southampton. So high indeed have this company ever stood in the estimation of the public, that in consequence of an information laid against them at Salisbury; a bill was brought into the House of Lords by the Earl of Radnor, and into the House of Commons by Mr. Hussey, for the emancipation of the stage. Assemblies are also frequently held in the elegant room at the crown; particularly on the birth days, and occasional times of public rejoycing; exclusive of the subscription assembly, held at the same place about once a fortnight and usually on Thursday. There are also other meetings called the promenade, these are both numerously attended by persons of the first rank and fashion. With therefore occasional concerts, and other usual amusements; not excepting the gay and motley scene during the Fair: the booths of which being ranged on the North side of the High-street along the pavement, include a crowded walk not unlike the bazars of the East together with aquatic excursions and sailing matches: and parties to the

different ships, few places can be found to vie in this point with the town of Portesmouth. Every convenience also of well regulated mails, excellent coaches, waggons, packets, &c. is also to be taken into the account, in which the town is superior to most. Tables are added at the end of this publication, as being the most commodious form and less interfering with our plan. Every thing then considered in whatever point we regard this place, it must be deemed highly worthy the attention of all; nor will it be easy to find many places that will equally gratify their visitors; or so much contribute to their pleasure and satisfaction. We may then safely reccommend the inspection of this place; and may venture boldly to assert that it will prove highly interesting not only to the traveller, but also to the occasional pursuer of amusement.

GUN-WHARF.

See these deep throated Engines; whose huge roar,
Imbowels with outrageous noise the air,
And all her entrails tears; disgorging foul
Their Devilish Glut; chain'd Thunderbolts, and Hail
Of Iron Globes.

MILTON,

HAVING passed the draw bridge that separates Portesmouth from the town of Portsea; the first object that presents itself to view, is that space wherein are contained the different buildings for the reception of the naval and military artillery. This place is situated on the left of the entrance to Portsea, and to those who have never witnessed such an exhibition, displays a scene the most awful and impressive. Here are piled up those wonderful engines of destruction which the fatal animosity and the furious passions of men have so unhappily brought into use. Here we see those arts brought into a regular system, and trace the varied improvement in the

methods of destroying the human race. But the melancholy reflections occasioned by the sight of those terrific implements will greatly subside, when we consider that the stigma incident to the consequent devastations and calamities inflicted by them: does not rest within the British nation; that nation as merciful, as brave, and as desirous of peace, as jealous of independence: never wantonly has recourse to these means: but in order to avenge insulted honor—or the infraction of treaties: to protect her own commerce: defend her own rights, or for the protection and support of the unfortunate, or as in the present case in a great and glorious, and devoutly to be hoped a successful struggle for the security of all that is sacred, of all that is dear to man: against the enemies of all order and good government, and against the enemies of religion.

A further consideration yet occurs to dispel the gloom: since the rage and ferocity of the inhabitants of earth have rendered the weapons of war of such importance; it still must be productive of some comfort to reflect that since the abolition of the Ancient modes, we never are shocked with accounts of that dreadful carnage that marked the battles of antiquity. This diminution of this great evil has been caused by the introduction of gun powder, in con-

sequence of which the whole science of war has undergone a complete change, and been gradually improved to its present state.

On a proper application at the gate, and giving information of his name and place of abode, a stranger may obtain admission nor can he fail to be wonderfully struck at the sight of this warlike apparatus. Here he will soon discover the vast superiority of the modern over the ancient artillery, and easily trace the many changes it has undergone from its origin to the present time. The warlike engines of the ancient depended entirely on the mechanical powers, and the elasticity of twisted cords formed of the bowels and sinews of animals, human hair, or hemp and flax. These were enormous cross bows or engines adapted to the discharge of stones: there were also other machines moved principally by human strength, used for battering walls. But to shew the superiority of the modern engines: it has been demonstrated, that a battering ram twenty eight inches diameter; one hundred and eighty feet long: with a head of cast iron, of one ton an a half, the whole ram weighing 41,112 lb; and moved by the united strength of one thousand men; will be only equal to a ball of 36 lb, shot point blank from a cannon. The greek fire was the next in use: this dreadful

composition caused terror and alarm wherever it was introduced. This secret has happily for mankind been since lost: and the preparation itself superseded by the invention of gun-powder.

This was the introduction to all the various implements of modern artillery. Before these every thing gave away, and the strongest fortifications of our forefathers: their moated bulwarks, their hitherto impregnable castles, were soon shattered to ruins by their resistless force, and the whole science of attack and defence completely reversed. At what time cannon began to be used in Europe is not precisely ascertained, nor is it material in this place to attempt to determine the point: but they do not appear to have been cast in England till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when in 1521 according to Stowe, or 1535 according to Camden, great brass ordnance were cast by a man of the name of Owen.

The Spaniards next introduced the matchlock, which was found extremely cumbersome and incommodious, and was superseded by the invention of the firelock and fusil, whence those regiments which were armed with them on the disuse of matchlocks still continue the name of fusiliers. Thus we see this mode of warfare carried to its highest summit; we see wars rendered less savage and sanguinary: conquest

less rapid and less frequent, and success in some measure reduced to calculation. This change introduced in the military art, has greatly enhanced the expence of wars, and added to the necessity of considerable military establishments in time of peace. The fortification of a town is become more difficult and more expensive, even so as to enable it for a few weeks to resist this superior artillery: hence then an opulent nation has an evident advantage, over a poor one; and as in former times, a civilized nation found it difficult to defend itself againt a barbarous one, so the case is now completely reversed---and what seems at first so highly pernicious, is favourable both to the extent and permanency of civilization. The spectator then of this awful scene, will on these reflections be in some measure divested of those uneasy sensations, which otherwise such an exhibition might be calculated to inspire while the peaceful and quiet scene that presents itself to view in a considerable degree serves to dispute those unpleasant ideas, nor till the stranger passes the store houses, does he enter upon the view of the grand range of warlike implements. He first enters on a pleasant green on the right hand of which is a new building erected for the small armoury, and also several handsome houses inhabited by the storekeeper, and the other officers belonging to the ordnance: Two very fine rows of

elms also tend to throw an additional air of privacy and retirement over the whole. To the left are several storehouses; passing by which through a gateway and along a very fine wharf: a wonderfully grand and sublime view bursts on the astonished eye. Here is the grand arsenal for guns, carronades and mortars, with shot of all dimensions, from ½ lb. to 68 lb. and shells from 4, 2, 5ths, to 13 inches diameter: these are placed in regular piles of a pyramidical form. The damaged shot also, and that taken from an enemy, being unfit for our pieces, as they are of a different bore, is also ranged in similar piles, and numbered and lettered according to the ship or place whence it was taken: and reserved for public sale, with the express condition of being broken previous to its removal. The guns from all the ships are lodged here when they are paid off and remain in ordinary; each ship's guns being perfectly cleaned and placed in a separate tier, while the carriages are stowed away in the same regular manner in proper storehouses, so as to be ready to be delivered at the very shortest warning. There are also two very considerable storehouses with their proper dependencies containing every kind of stores to answer any very sudden emergency. The one adapted to supply all sorts of ordnance and other necessaries towards the sudden

equipment of any of the ships in ordinary at this port; and the other containing the useful though providentially from our insular situation the less frequently required necessaries for the speedy equipment of an army. The different work-houses for the artificers who have the care of the artillery, are also well worthy notice. Thus exclusive of the very considerable additions now making to this important arsenal, this place affords a sight at once novel and animating. The very commanding view of the harbour, and the surrounding scenery, add much to the impressive grandeur of the scene; and the various lighters and other vessels carrying out or returning with stores to or from the respective ships cause an animation and bustle scarcely to be parallelled, and to a person unaccustomed to such exhibitions, must afford a very high idea of the power and opulence of the British nation: Returning from this inspection he will pass the small armoury: this is a large, noble and commodious building lately erected; which will contain arms for twenty five thousand men: of various kinds, from the large and cumbrous wall pieces, to the various species of small arms, these are all kept in the exactest order; the firelocks with their fixed bayonets are placed in proper stands in four ranges; the pikes and Halberts forming pillars; and the pistols handsome cornices round the

doors and windows; while swords and other arms are disposed in varied and fantastical forms—exhibiting an arrangement of splendour and brilliance inferior alone to the magnificent armoury in the tower of London. The rooms below this are appropiated to the artificers, whose business it is to arrange and keep the arms clean: on application to whom a sight of this building is easily obtained. Behind this is a large garden belonging to the storekeeper. All this extensive range is strictly guarded by sentries placed at proper distances, and towards the street is enclosed by a high and substantial brick wall continued from the draw-bride, down to the beach near the hard at Portsea, the whole including an exhibition, equalled by few arsenals in Europe.

TOWN OF PORTSEA.

Ingentia cernunt
Mœnia, surgentemque novæ Carthaginis arcem:
Magnam mirantur molem, magalia quondam,
Mirantur Portas. strepitumque, et strata Viarum.
VIRGIL.

ON the investigation of the origin and causes of an extensive population of the rise and progress of towns and cities; we perceive them attaining to prosperity by slow and imperceptible degrees: few are those fortunate situations where they are enabled to spring up almost by enchantment. On the view then of the present town these ideas naturally occur: on its uncommonly rapid progress every visitor must be struck with astonishment. Within this present century, this was a large open common field with only a few wretched Hovels upon it: what would be the wonder and admiration of a person

who might have left this place in its original state, and returned to witness its existing opulence and splendour is easily conceived: where formerly harvests waved, and where the stillness and solitude of the scene, was only interrupted by the lowings of the herds; or the hoarse voices of the laborious rustics; are now seen noble streets, splendid edifices, and magnificent gateways, we now hear the busy hum of men, and surrounded by all the appendages of wealth and commerce, cannot but be convinced of the superior exertions of British industry, cannot sufficiently admire the energy of the British character.

This town has not arisen as the suburbs of London, from an influx of persons eager in the pursuit of pleasure, or the overflowings of a crowded metropolis. This town has been entirely a new creation, almost independent of any other cause, than the advantage of situation and the attractions of commerce. So prodigious a resort of people has been occasioned by these circumstances, that Portesmouth was found totally inadequate to their reception: the great number of officers and persons of various descriptions employed in the dock-yard, rendered it still more insufficient. Thus then this new town has arisen, and already encreased to such a height, that in population, number of edifices, extent and number of streets, it far exceeds Portesmouth itself. On enter-

ing upon an examination of this town, we cannot fail of being immediately attracted by the noble line of fortification by which it is protected. This great undertaking was commenced in the summer of 1770; and now presents as complete a work of the kind as any in Europe: being no ways inferior in strength or beauty to any of the so highly vaunted fortresses of the continent. This line is so well secured to the right and left, that the approaches of an enemy can be made only in few points, and those directly in front. The nature of the ground is indeed such, and so easily wrought, that the operations of a besieging army would be less difficult, were it not, that the country round is too flat, and being completely commanded from the elevation of the works, affords no protection or cover to an enemy; his approaches must consequently commence at a considerable distance, and be attended with difficulty and danger. The works themselves are faced with stone, as far as the corner of the parapet, which is of turf, and obviates in a great measure the objection against stone works. The ditches are wide and deep, and the whole line is furnished with strong and capacious outworks; a large ravelin at the head of the lake, connects these works with those at Portesmouth: with which place the communication is preserved by a long bridge, which leads to St. Thomas's gate. There are two very magnificent gates in this line,

called the Lion gate and the Unicorn gate. This last leads from Cumberland Street, &c. and communicates with the London road, by one that passes the Flat-house, and enters it near Mile-end. The Lion gate, which is by far the most frequented, leads directly from Queen-street by a very short road, from which another branches off at the foot of the glacis to the Unicorn gate, immediately to the Half-way house. Having passed this gate, we see a long and well built street, equalled but in few places for business and bustle, called Queen-street; to the left of this, a handsome street turns off to a large open space surrounded by genteel houses, called St. George's Square, and communicates directly with Portesmouth by a draw-bridge and road by the King's Mills. Turning from this part and passing the Gun-wharf, and its extended wall, through a continuation of St. George's square, we enter on that street called the Hard, from the circumstance of the Hard or place of communication with Gosport, being immediately opposite to it. This street consists principally of one handsome row of houses commanding a most beautiful view of the harbour, with the opposite town of Gosport, and the Magazine. At the end of this is the Dock-yard gates, whence we soon reach the west end of Queen street. On this side of the town are several considerable streets, particularly Havant-street, Union and Bishop

streets; with the Old rope-walk and College-street. On the opposite side of Queen-street, are also many more which intersect each other; as Daniel, Cross, and North-street, with Prince George's, King and Cumberland streets, with some others ranging along the Dock-yard wall, and extending to the sea shore. The whole completing a range of well-built and well-connected streets, with many open places, and affording some pleasant walks, particularly on the lines, and along that part of the town that overlooks the harbour. It has been paved, &c. and the roads and ferry regulated by act of parliament; and is in every respect adapted to the agreeable residence of a private family, the occasional retirement of the active officer, or laudable exertions of the merchant or tradesman.

A place that has risen to so great a degree of eminence among the towns of our island, cannot be supposed destitute of public buildings. Those dedicated to the service of religion claim the first place, both as to the importance of their destination, and their superior magnificence. This town laboured under much inconvenience, as the parish church was at Kingston, too far distant for the convenience, and too confined for the accommodation of the inhabitants of Portsea. Consequently an adequate subscription being made, and parliament applied to, an act was obtained for erecting a chapel of ease to

the mother-church; which was accordingly built upon the space of ground given by the corporation of Portesmouth, to which it has since given name, endowed and consecrated by the name of St. George's chapel.

This is a handsome well-built edifice, square, containing in each front, two tier of large windows, five in each tier, excepting over the communion table, where there is a very large Venetian window. The internal disposition of the chapel is elegant and well adapted; the centre rests upon four very handsome columns; the seats well arranged with middle and side aisles, with galleries on three sides, and a handsome well toned organ. This however, was afterwards found extremely insufficient for the encreasing number of the inhabitants. Measures were therefore taken for the erection of another; which plan has been since carried into execution in Prince George's Street, where a chapel has been built on a very superior scale, both of magnificence and convenience. A chapel that has been esteemed, not without propriety, one of the first in this kingdom in point of elegance and extent. The principal front is towards Prince George's Street, containing in the centre, the entrance, with a large Venetian window and fan light over it; on each side two windows, one in each story, with

additional wings, containing the stair-cases leading to the galleries, thus rendering them completely private, and preventing that noise and confusion, which always ensues when they are in the interior of the building. Over the grand entrance is a noble cupola, with the clock and bell. The internal arrangement of this noble chapel is extremely striking. The centre rests on four Corinthian columns highly enriched; the side walls are divided in the upper range into six compartments, in four of which are large sash windows, with the same number below. On three sides extends a noble gallery supported by smaller columns, at each end of which is a large sash window. The communion table is placed in a semicircular recess separated from the body of the chapel by an elegant screen of fluted Corinthian columns. The table is marble, and placed directly under a large arched sash window, on each side of which is a door, one leading to the organ-loft, and the other into a large and commodious vestry. The pannels between which, together with the cornice, are handsomely executed in stucco, and contain the Lord's prayer, the creed, &c. The arched ceiling of the chapel, highly decorated with appropriate stucco work, the noble chandeliers, and the elegant desks and pulpit; together with that unusual circumstance, of every seat being finished with maho-

gany, exhibit an arrangement of splendour, scarcely to be paralleled. This chapel was consecrated by the bishop of Winchester, in the year 1789, by the name of St. John's chapel. A very handsome and commodious house, in the same style of architecture, was also erected for the use of the minister. The next in rank, is the Society Hall, erected in a street, which still retains the denomination of the Old Rope-Walk. This building belongs to a friendly society established in this place, one of the oldest in the kingdom, and whose exertions have been directed to a most beneficial purpose. Here their anniversary meeting is held, the first monday in October, where they go in procession to hear divine service at St. George's chapel, and return in the same manner to the Hall; where after the necessary business of the day is transacted, the remainder is passed in a decorous and harmonious conviviality; which is generally honoured by the attendance of the honorary members who are some of the most distinguished characters, not only in the town, but also in the whole county. The lower part of this building is appropriated to the use of a large charity school, under the patronage and support of the society. The upper serves for their occasional meetings, and when not occupied, is used for concerts, balls, exhibitions, &c. It is a very handsome room, long and lofty, well lighted,

and is every way adapted both to the purposes of pleasure and convenience. Large temporary barracks have been erected, to the north of Queen-street, near the works, where a very considerable number of men may be well accommodated. There are various places of public worship here, for those who dissent from the established church; particularly in Daniel-street, Bishop-street, St. George's-square, &c. Here are also two synagogues, on the Dutch and Portuguese establishment. A very handsome Roman catholic chapel has lately been erected in Prince George's-street, where every thing necessary is provided for every requisite ceremony in that mode of worship. Charitable establishments have been also much attended to, and supported with a spirit of liberality that does honour to the inhabitants. Exclusive of parish workhouses, and the school belonging to the Friendly Society: there are other establishments dependent on St. John's chapel, exclusive of numerous others, which in so contracted a publication prevents our noticing. The cage for the imprisonment of petty offenders, is in St. George's-square. As this town is so nearly connected with Portesmouth, it is under the same government, and uses the same market. The principal inns are the Navy Tavern, Mr. Woolford near the Dock-yard gates on the Hard; the Royal-oak, upper end of

Queen-street, and the Crown tavern and coffee-room the lower end of Queen-street; besides which, there are a variety of houses of public entertainment. The brewhouse near St. George's Square, is the property of Mr. Temple. The principal houses and shops are too numerous to be mentioned. The amusements are the same as those in Portesmouth. Indeed, so nearly connected are these two towns, that to a casual observer, they would seem but divisions of one great city.

DOCK-YARD.

How deep the various voice of fervent toil,
From shore to shore increased; whence ribb'd with oak,
To bear the British thunder; black and bold
The roaring vessel rushes to the main.

THOMSON.

HAVING passed through the various scenes already mentioned, the attention of the visitor will naturally be directed to the Dock-yard; where on sending a proper request to the commissioner, and inserting his name and place of abode in a book, according to the customary and highly necessary forms, he will be attended round this noble and important inclosure; which from the extensive ranges of numerous storehouses, long rows of elegant houses, the magnificent mansion of the commissioner, the noble royal academy, chapel, and other public buildings, presents the appearance of a handsome and considerable town. In the course of his in-

spection, he cannot but be struck at the astonishing degree of perfection at which human art is capable of arriving; never more wonderfully exemplified than in the to all appearance immeasurable distance between the simple wicker boats of our forefathers, or the light canoe of an American savage, and the magnificent and stupendous first-rate man of war. It would far exceed our limits to trace the various improvements in navigation, from the tedious voyages of the ancients who seldom dared to lose sight of land, to the invention of the compass, and the adventurous spirit of modern navigators, or the advances made in naval architecture, from the weak and unavailing efforts of the ancient galley, to the tremendous thunder of the floating bulwarks of the present day. A common acquaintance with ancient and modern history will point out this to every observer. Here he will be also able to mark the progress in the construction of these immense machines, and be naturally led to reflect on that stupendous power which has accrued to Britain from the superiority of her sons in the management and direction of these great bodies, and their unparalleled skill and intrepidity on what nature seems to have pointed out as their proper element, whereby she has attained the most distinguished pre-eminence among the nations of Europe, and rendered herself sovereign of the seas.

The best method of viewing this place, seems to be by turning to the right : the visitor will then enter more gradually on this magnificent scene ; to which if he proceeds immediately forward, he is hurried at once into the most crowded part, after which the other parts appear to less advantage : he is confused by a variety of objects, which from not having previously inspected the others he cannot easily distinguish. The gate is lofty and handsome, with a smaller one to the right ; within a little distance from which, he is presented with a noble view of the great part of the interior of this extensive arsenal. To the left are the mast-houses, where are fabricated all the masts and yards for the service of the ships at this port. Behind which is a large enclosure for the purpose of seasoning the timber. To the left is a large and handsome house for the residence of the porter, who has under him a number of servants constantly attending at the gate. A little farther to the left a large new bason has lately been constructed, with some additional mast houses, the former having been found insufficient. On the right is a large and handsome modern built guard-house, with a suite of apartments for the officers, and sufficient accommodation for a numerous guard. The next building is the Pay office, containing every convenience for the regular transac-

tion of that important branch of public business; under which, is a spacious piazza, serving as a shelter in bad weather for those who cannot be immediately admitted to the upper apartments. Proceeding onwards we have a full view of that magnificent edifice appropriated to the education of young gentlemen for his majesty's service, whence it receives the name of the Royal Academy. In the centre of this building is a noble staircase, crowned with a large dome, commanding a most extensive and varied prospect. To the left of this is a handsome dining room, communicating with the master's apartments, which occupy the left wing of the building: over this room are accommodations for the under master. To the right is a large room used for a fencing room and other exercises; from which we are led into a large room occupying the whole extent of the ground floor of the right wing, in which is a remarkable fine orrery, constructed by Mr. Wright. In this room is preserved in a large glass case, a very fine model of the Victory, a first rate ship of war, built in this yard, but unfortunately lost near the race of Alderney, in the year 1774, while under the command of admiral Balchen. This ship mounted no less than 110 brass cannon, and at that time had on board more than a thousand men, none of whom escaped. This model is five feet in

length, and was constructed in this yard. All the running rigging is made of twisted silk; the carved work particularly in the head and stern, is highly beautiful and extremely minute, especially the stern-galleries, some of which are now disused in the Royal navy; the form of the head is also much altered, figures being laid aside, and scroll or billet-heads substituted in their room. This model is so completely finished, as to bear the closest inspection, and forms a most valuable and curious specimen of British industry and superiority of workmanship. The remainder of this building is divided into apartments for the use of the young gentlemen placed here; who are each separately lodged. They are here instructed in every branch of learning proper for their profession at the public expence, and supplied with masters of every description. The head master is Mr. Bayly, who traversed the globe with captain Cook as astronomer, and who has here also a very excellent observatory, amply furnished with every necessary instrument. Mr. Bradley, a gentleman of acknowledged abilities, is the second master. The French language is taught by M. Charrier; and they have an opportunity of learning all the different branches of drawing under the tuition of Mr. Livesay, an artist of distinguished eminence. They are also attended by a writing and fencing master. This

course of study is usually completed in three years, which they have the great advantage of being considered as so much real service, and rated as part of the time proper for their passing for lieutenants. A handsome yatch belongs to the academy, for the purpose of instructing them further in the practical part of navigation. The commissioner is the governor.

Somewhat farther, is the magnificent mansion of the commissioner, built since his majesty's visit in 1773, and honoured with his residence after the glorious action of the first of June, It consists of a noble centre, with a handsome portico and two wings, in the left, or northernmost of which, is the office for transacting all the various branches of business, that fall under the inspection of the commissioner. The apartments are elegant and well-disposed. The front is separated from the yard by an extensive iron railing, comprehending a large space as an approach for carriages, adorned with poplars and flowering shrubs; opposite which is a large space of ground, reserved for the use of the house. behind is a noble and extensive garden, where formerly stood the chapel well laid out and kept in the highest order. The house is also furnished with all necessary attached and detached offices suitable to its dignity; so that it forms a well

adapted and commodious mansion; either with regard to the importance of the office, or as an occasional residence during a royal visit. The present commissioner is Sir Charles Saxton baronet.. The old house was on the north side of the rope-house.

After passing a long range of storehouses, on turning to the right the chapel presents itself to view. This is a very neat modern structure, with a front and side entrances. The front is surmounted with a columniated cupola, in which hangs the bell of the unfortunate Royal George. The windows in the lower tier are small; those in the upper very large; three in front, and six on each side, with a large Venetian, and side windows over the communion table. The inside is very elegant and remarkable luminous. The galleries are disposed round three sides, with enclosed staircases near the front door. The disposition of the seats below is extremely commodious; these are large and handsome, particularly that of the commissioner, which is also furnished with a gilt brass rail and curtains. The pulpit and reading desk roomy and well situated, and surrounded with a light staircase, in rather an unusual but extremely convenient method. The communion table is placed in a large square recess, elegantly finished; on each side of which is a room for the accommodation of the chaplain. On the whole, the air of

neatness and simplicity which reigns in this well-proportioned room, gives it a very pleasing and appropriate appearance. Directly from this, a road leads between the walls of the commissioner's and surgeon's gardens to the new guard house, a building lately erected, with a handsome portico, fronting the entrance of Cumberland-street. On the right after returning from this place are four houses for some of the officers of the yard, which are large commodious and handsome. Opposite these is seen between the chapel and storehouses on one side, and the rope-houses on the other, a very extended range of anchors of all dimensions, ready for immediate service. The east end of the rope-house next claims the visitor's attention: he sees the whole extent of this large building at one view; and from its vast length, it being 1094 feet long and 54 feet broad, the perspective is uncommonly striking; the men and machines seeming almost lost in the distance. Here are three rooms over each other; in the upper the process of spinning the hemp, and preparing the threads is performed with the greatest celerity and ingenuity: while in the lower one, they are formed into an immense whole called a cable; some of which are so large, that they require no less than eighty men to work them, whose business is so laborious, that they can continue it only a small portion of the day; but the difficulty is now much

alleviated by a machine lately invented for that purpose.

Leaving this, on the right is seen a large range of stables and other buildings for the commissioner and officers: near which, and behind a long range of houses, is a large pond called the commissioner's pond, well stored with fish, that supplies the yard with water, and is extremely serviceable in case of fire. Passing hence, and viewing on the left several store-houses and immense piles of timber, we enter upon a magnificent square. The eastern side of which is formed by a noble row of houses for the residence of the officers; before which is a broad paved terrace, surrounded by a dwarf wall, and greatly improved by some fine rows of trees. The south and north sides comprise a variety of offices and storehouses, arranged in the most systematic order. In the centre of this square, is a double-gilt statue of William the Third in a Roman habit, on a marble pedestal, the gift of the celebrated colonel Richard Norton, of Southwick park, with this inscription.

GULIELMO
III.
OPTIMO REGI
CICDCCXVIII
Ricardus Norton, humillime. D. D.

The area of this sqaare is used as a repository for those immense piles of timber: which a stranger would wonder both where they could be procured, and how they could be consumed. The western part is open, and presents a distant view of the ships in dock, and other interesting objects; and is an admirable preparation for those scenes which offer themselves to the sight of the astonished visitor.

The visitor will next proceed by the store and work-houses for the building of boats and other uses, leaving on the right the stables, a modern brick building, large and convenient, near which is an excellent cold bath, to the bason and boat house. In both these places he will observe all the kinds of boats in use of the Royal navy. He cannot fail to be much pleased at the sight of this repository, where he may mark the wonderful progress of the science of navigation, from the light Indian canoes, several of which are hung up here, to those vast floating bulwarks, the very idea of which would have appeared little short of madness in the eyes of our forefathers.

The next object of curiosity is the anchor-forge. In this immense building, the blackness of which, from the constant fires, the perpetual noise and din, in all its gradation, from the light tinkling of the

hammer, to the loud and sullen sound of the enormous sledges echoing from every part, with the large and dusky figures of the workmen moving in continual succession, recall to mind the fables of Vulcan and the Cyclops labouring in the caverns of Ætna; here all the iron-work and anchors are wrought for the navy, many of which weigh from forty to ninety hundred weight. After having thus viewed the different storehouses, rope-house, Timber yards, and boat-houses, together with the last mentioned highly striking spectacle, the stranger is in some measure prepared for the opening of the principal scene.

From the forge he should then be led to the view of the men of war on the stocks. Here then is presented to his astonished sight, the immense frame of the Dreadnought, a second rate, pierced for 98 guns. The height, the immense size, the solidity and compactness of the frame must fill him with wonder and admiration, at the astonishing power and invention of man.

The jetty heads lay next in order from the view of the harbour, and the number of ships in repair in the docks, or laying in the harbour forms a most glorious sight. Such is the depth of water at this place, that the largest ships lie close along side of

the jetties, affording the convenience of stepping aboard immediately from the shore. A little beyond these, are the numerous docks for the repair of men of war, in which the ships lie completely dry, till every thing necessary is performed. These docks and basons are in the highest degree convenient and magnificent, furnished with pumps, &c. But these are but trifling in comparison of the immense works now carrying on near the others, namely a magnificent range of basons and docks, that will when completed, be a standing proof of the spirit and energy of the British nation, and render this the completest port in the universe. To the right of these a little further on, is a new brick building detached from the yard by a gate, and surrounded by a colonnade, wherein are several offices, &c. Here are the king's stairs, for the convenience of the boats belonging to the yard and those from the different ships with a slope, for the purpose of landing and taking on board the necessary stores. Here the noble ranges of storehouses three stories high and sashed, have a most elegant appearance. In these the visitor may observe the different modes of conducting the business of the yard, and the rigging of the different ships. Opposite these is the other end of the rope-house, and the range of anchors. Somewhat further, is a large yard and storehouses for the selling and keeping,

decayed stores. Passing then the new bason on the left, and on the right the mast-houses, the tour of this noble inclosure will be completed, in that order which is most likely to give general satisfaction. The vast importance of such an arsenal must universally be acknowledged. The Briton feels his heart expand with conscious pride at the magnitude and perseverance, and consequently successful efforts of his country. While the foreigner views with wonder such immense and almost inexhaustible resources; and perceiving the activity and regularity that reigns in every department, will learn to reverence and properly estimate that power to which British exertion, and British unanimity naturally gives rise. While viewing with astonishment this glorious scene, and all its varied operations, what would be the surprize of a stranger to be informed that any man much less an Englishman, could be possessed of such cool deliberate villainy as to attempt the destruction of a work of such national magnitude. This place had already suffered much by two dreadful conflagrations, the first of which happened about the middle of the night of the third of July, 1760. An alarming fire broke out in one of the principal warehouses, wherein were deposited vast quantities of pitch, tar, oil and turpentine, with other combustible materials;

this being quickly reduced to ashes, the flames extended to other warehouses wherein were prodigious quantities of dry stores; and raged for a long time with the most amazing rapidity. As the night was uncommonly tempestuous, the thunder awfully loud, the lightning remarkably vivid, and the weather uncommonly sultry: in addition to which, the circumstance of the hemp store-house windows being left open, in order to air it, and the intense heat of the atmosphere, very properly caused this calamity attributed to the effect of the lightning. But this misfortune dreadful as it was, was but trifling compared with that which happened on the morning of the 27th of July 1770. The store-house for the pitch and tar was soon burnt to the ground; after which the fire broke out in four different places at once, and raged with such violence, as to occasion universal terror and alarm; and threaten the destruction of the whole Dock-yard. Providentially however by the shifting of the wind; the active exertions of the artificers, the timely assistance of the seamen and marines, together with the patriotic and voluntary aid of numbers of individuals, the progress of the fire was stopped in the course of the afternoon. Here if we may be allowed to attend to popular suspicion, on these occasions generally too active, we may reflect on the proneness of man, to a criminal compliance with the base and designing;

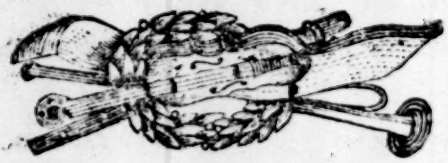
to gratify his avarice or ambition. This nefarious deed was according to the public opinion, perpetrated by foreign emissaries. Some grounds for this suspicion may be had, from this circumstance; that no reasonable proof has ever been adduced of this calamity having been occasioned by lightning, or any other accidental cause: against which the utmost precautions are always used. But however this may have happened, there is no doubt concerning that which broke out on the seventh of December, 1776, But providentially this deep laid plan was in a great measure frustrated, as the fire broke out prematurely, in the day instead of the night; and the wind blowing towards the water, prevented in a great degree the havock which this yard must otherwise have sustained. The rope-houses and some of the adjoining storehouses were indeed destroyed, but repaired again with the most astonishing celerity. Since which time no very material accident has happened to endanger this great repository of the British naval stores.

The perpetrator of this atrocious deed. did not long remain undiscovered. This man whose real name was John Aitkin, but who is better known by the assumed one of Jack the Painter; was found to be the same person who had made a similar attempt at Plymouth dock, and had already consider-

ably damaged the store-houses and shipping at Bristol. This nefarious attempt, at a time when the country was threatened with various and increasing calamities: at a time when the American colonies had revolted---when surrounding nations were secretly contriving the downfall of the British empire. Surely, such a diabolical action and at such a time, must have occasioned the most serious alarm; and excited the most lively indignation. It is however, some satisfaction to reflect, that this miscreant met his merited punishment. He was condemned at Winchester, on the sixth of March, 1777, and executed near the Dock-gates. The man of humanity will yet be pleased to hear, that even this man repented of his enormous crimes. On being led through the yard previous to his final exit, he shewed the sincerest signs of remorse and contrition, for havock he had occasioned; and as some atonement, pointed out the means of securing the different dock-yards against any such future designs, to which they were before too open. His body was hung in chains opposite Portesmouth, on the Block-house beach; where the gibbet still stands, as a warning to similar offenders: and it is sincerely to be hoped that his punishment will deter others, who should ever unfortunately be inclined to be guilty of such atrocious conduct.

Highly important then, is it to the nation, that the greatest precautions should be used for the safety and protection of this noble arsenal: on the destruction of which, our naval efforts would in a considerable degree be obstructed, and the glory of the British name in some measure suffer a temporary obscurity.

This splendid naval arsenal, is then certainly worthy the inspection of every traveller: the superior excellence of this place over most others of a similar nature, will be immediately evident to those who have been accustomed to such objects; while to a stranger the effect will be highly novel and entertaining. And little are the feelings of that man to be envied, on whom such an exhibition will not leave the most indelible impression.



ISLAND OF PORTSEA.

How has kind Heav'n adorn'd this happy land,
And scatter'd blessings with a lavish hand;
Such various gifts does Industry impart,
The smiles of nature, and the charms of art.

ADDISON.

HAVING thus taken a view of these towns and the dock-yard, it will not be improper to make some mention of that noble island in which they are situated. This comprehends within the limits of sixteen miles a fine flat fertile country; the land in general very good, chiefly consisting of arable land, with some meadow and pasture: there are several very considerable farms. This in the Saxon times was part of the royal demesnes; but was alienated in the reign of king Edgar; whose queen Athelfleda gave it to the new minster, at Winchester, and a large portion of it is still collegiate land. It is en-

tirely one parish; with the exception however of the town of Portesmouth. The parish church is nearly in the centre at the village of Kingston, from which it takes its name. This is a handsome and commodious structure, in that style of architecture that was introduced at the revolution. A very extensive burying ground surrounds it. In the south-east corner of which, is a very large grave, containing the bodies of some men who were taken up from the unfortunate wreck of the Royal George, and interred here; to commemorate which unhappy accident, a handsome monument has been erected near the grave. The circumstance of this Island being surrounded by the sea, contributes much to the security of Portesmouth. Nature has also been further assisted by the addition of some excellent works. The communication with the main land is at Portsbridge, about four miles from Portesmouth, over a large canal that unites Portesmouth and Langston harbours, and which is to be widened. Here are two bridges, one for the entrance and the other for the departure of passengers, secured by a triple entrenchment, and lines drawn on each side along the shore, with a large guard house. The two other principal points of defence, are fort Cumberland and South-sea castle. This last is very ancient, built by Henry the Eighth and was much enlarged in

and since improved and strengthened in the modern manner. This important fortress guards the approach to Spithead and the entrance of the harbour: but it is to be feared it will require to be entirely re-built, as the sea has made and continues to make considerable encroachments, and has often caused considerable devastations in the castle. Fort Cumberland commands the entrance to Langston harbour, and is not yet finished. It is a regular pentagon, with considerable outworks. The interior of this magnificent and from its situation, impregnable fort, is formed of brick. The walls are bomb proof with casemates for the accommodation of the soldiers, in the manner of the fortifications of Gibraltar, and will accommodate five thousand men with the greatest ease. In the centre will be a house for the governor, and pavilions for the other officers, with all other requisite buildings. This work is performed by the convicts on board the hulks in Langston harbour. It was begun about the year 1790, and will probably be a considerable time ere it is completed. There are also other batteries in other parts of the island. Little however will be apprehended from an attack on this side; as exclusive of the protection of the fort, Langston harbour is extremely difficult of access. Thus this place is so secure both by nature and art, that any hostile invader would soon have

reason to repent the rashness of his attempt. There are very extensive barrack at Hilsea near Portsbridge, for the accommodation of a very considerable body of men. Here the soldiers destined for foreign service, are lodged previous to their embarkation, and also on their return: thus forming a grand military depot, where men are always ready for service in case of any sudden emergency.

This Island is interspersed with large and numerous hamlets; and such as in any other situation would not unjustly be deemed considerable villages: particularly those very extensive and populous streets adjoining to the two towns. The first place we meet with, are the Half-way houses, lately very much increased; where is the junction of the Portsea with the Portesmouth road. Another large and similar assemblage of dwellings, is at a place called Kingston Cross. The village also of Kingston is very populous and exceedingly pleasant: which with the elegant hamlet of Fratton, form agreeable residences to those whose business requires their frequent attendance at Portesmouth, or in the dock-yard. They contain some very handsome and considerable houses, and being removed from the dust and hurry of the public road, and the bustle and confusion of the town, would almost encourage the visitor to suppose

himself in some rural retreat, far distant from any of the busy haunts of men: retreats to which, the active and laborious exertions of their inhabitants fully entitle them.

To the left of the high road, are also some very retired and charming scenes, with commanding views of the harbour, the opposite shore, and the noble remains of Portchester castle; with the fine range of Portsdown behind: affording some very pleasant rides and walks. On the right, near Hilsea, is Gatcombe house, the pleasant seat of Sir Roger Curtis. This villa is situated at the east end of a noble vista, commanding the road, and yet at such a sufficient distance as by no means to be incommoded by it. Report places here a monastery; but as neither its name nor its order is ascertained, its existence rests on a very fragile foundation. Camden, and the author of the Notitia Monastica make no mention of it. Some human skulls and other bones were indeed lately dug up here in forming a piece of garden ground. Probably it might have been formerly a house of retirement, or the country residence of the superior of some monastery: of which the greater ones had several on their numerous estates and dependencies. Not far from hence, is Stubbington house, very pleasantly situated. A

very large and handsome house has been lately built near the road, by Mr. Blake. There are also several others well worthy the attention of the traveller; but it would far exceed our limits to mention them. This side of the island abounds in pleasant rides and walks, by the different villages, towards the large expanse of Langston harbour to Cumberland fort; and over the common to South-sea castle, presenting the stranger with most extensive views towards St. Helens, Spithead, and along the whole eastern side of the Isle of Wight. This whole extent is well inhabited, every attention paid to the education of the children, and the comfort of the poor. A large commodious, and well-regulated workhouse being established near Kingston, for the reception of the aged and unfortunate. In short, in whatever point we view this island, we cannot avoid admiring it; whether as to the fertility of the soil, its increasing population, or the number and beauty of those impressive scenes that every where present themselves to the view of the enraptured spectator.

PORTESMOUTH HARBOUR.

———Thy crowded ports,
Where rising masts an endless prospect yield,
With labour burn, and echo to the shout
Of hurried sailor, as he hearty waves
His last adieu, and loos'ning every sheet,
Resigns the spreading vessel to the wind.

THOMSON.

AFTER having visited the several scenes already mentioned, the stranger would be properly prepared, and naturally eager to view the noble harbour; not only as being the grand receptacle of the British navy, but also, as it must necessarily attract his attention in his passage to inspect the remaining parts of this highly interesting tour. This noble expanse of water forms one of the finest harbours in the kingdom, capable of containing the whole navy of Britain, in which there is a sufficient depth of water for a first rate: so well defended from the attack of an enemy, and so perfectly secure from

every wind, that in whatever point it may be considered, it cannot possibly be denied to be the finest port in the universe.

Its superiority to most other ports will be easily discovered, if we examine the different requisites to contribute a haven of the first rank. The first point necessary to be ascertained in the choice of a port, is, that it should be secure from storms; and as much as possible sheltered from the effects of any wind that can blow. Of the excellence of the harbour of Portesmouth in this respect, the slightest examination will soon convince us. The towns of Portesmouth, Portsea, and Gosport, the Dock-yard, the Gun-wharf, Block-house, Haslar, the various Villages, rising grounds and plantations, and the majestic range of Portsdown, so completely cover it on every side, that no wind, from whatever point of the compass it may blow, can materially injure the shipping there at anchor. So remarkably smooth indeed is the water, that when the sea at Spithead is so agitated by storms, as to render it dangerous for small vessels, and even when large ones are often driven from their anchors, the ships in harbour remain immoveable, scarcely influenced by them: and very seldom does it happen, but that the smallest boats ply with the most perfect safety. The

next rule is, that the water should be of sufficient depth, with good anchorage, and not rendered unsafe by any hidden rocks, shelves, or shifting sands. This port in these respects, claim a distinguished pre-eminence; it is so deep that even at the lowest ebb, a first rate can ride safe, without touching the ground or raking her bottom; and can lie close to the jetties, can take in all her sea-stores, guns, &c. and in a very short time proceed immediately to sea. The bottom of the harbour is every where sound, and fit for anchorage: totally exempt from any of those troublesome impediments, which often render other valuable harbours insecure and inconvenient—no such rocks, no projecting headlands against which any ship might strike; no dangerous shelves, nor any of those shifting sands which often impede the navigation of other harbours; not any accumulation of soil brought in by any considerable stream. In these respects this harbour has a manifest superiority.

Nor is it sufficient that an harbour of any great universal national importance has all these requisites, if at the same time it is not sufficiently capacious, or difficult of access. In the present case no such objection can possibly be valid. This harbour in its various branches, is able to contain the far greater proportion of

the British navy; numerous and tremendous as it is; nor is there any bar or other impediment whatever to obstruct or embarrass the entrance; particularly as the ebb is much stronger than the flow: the latter taking up the space of seven hours, while the former only takes that of five, consequently the mouth of the harbour is continually scowered, and the water running out in an angle throws every sediment of every kind that might otherwise occasion a bar, upon the spit; and consequently leaves a deep channel close under the shore, as far as South-sea castle. The next thing to be required is, that every convenience should be commanded for building and repairing ships. Portesmouth harbour in this respect enjoys the most decided advantages. No situation can possibly be more commodious, either for constructing ships or launching them. The docks are numerous and considerable, and will enable the artificers to send to sea a great number of ships every month: indeed, such is the regularity and dispatch, and such the improvements in replacing the masts and rigging the different vessels, that it is impossible in a cursory view to do justice to them. The great quantity of naval stores, ammunition, and provisions of every kind is astonishing; nor can any place in Europe excel this in these points: none where they can be had in greater abundance, or where they can

be found in better order. All these advantages this harbour commands in the most extended latitude; but little would all avail, if at the same time it was not perfectly secure: if it was in the least exposed to any hostile attempts. Not even the smallest shadow of an objection can apply to Portesmouth on this account; as we have already noticed its almost impregnable situation, and the strength of its works: it is moreover always provided with a considerable garrison. Large bodies of troops are quartered in its vicinity: it is moreover, in case of a siege easily to be relieved. What therefore with the protection of its fleet, and the bravery of its defenders, we cannot hesitate to pronounce that even the most daring efforts of the most formidable host of invaders would be fruitless and unavailing. A very superior and additional accommodation to this port, an accommodation to be met with in few ports of Europe, is the noble, safe, and capacious road of Spithead.

This noble harbour forms one grand and extensive sheet of water far beyond the dock-yard; it then branches off into Fareham aud Portchester lakes; the former of which runs up to that town, nearly five miles; and for a considerable part of that distance forms an admirable station for the ships in ordinary. Portchester lake also for a great space answers the

same purpose, a large part of which is occupied by a very great number of ships fitted up for the reception of prisoners of war; under proper officers, and a strong guard of marines.

Higher up this lake is the great castle and adjacent village of Portchester; beyond which, on one of the islands in the creek that extends to Wimmering and Portsbridge, a new powder magazine has lately been erected, Exclusive of these lakes, aonther runs up to the northward of the dock-yard, with the very appropriate name of rotten row; as the unserviceable and condemned ships are laid up there. The lake between the two towns of Portesmouth and Portsea, commonly known by the name of the mill dam has been already mentioned. On the oppositie side of the harbour we meet with Forton and Stoke lakes. The first of which, passing by an island, with the ruins of an ancient castle on it, the erection of which is ascribed to Stephen called Borough castle, reaches to the village of Forton, separating the magazine from the town of Gosport, and supplying a mill near its extremity; affording the convenience of water-carriage to the new Military hospital. The latter penetrates inland, south of Gosport, as far as Alverstoke, with a variety of inner creeks; and separates the tongue of land on which the Royal hos-

pital of Haslar and Blockhouse fort are built from the town of Gosport. The vast extent of this harbour, and its numerous dependencies, must certainly attract universal notice. The immense number of vessels, from the finished first rate, to the humble wherry; the large hulks, or old ships for the reception of the different crews, while those they belong to are under repair: the sheer-hulks with their vast inclining machines, for the purpose of raising or placing masts: the number of large and heavy lighters belonging to the gun-wharf or the dock-yard: the number of boats of all descriptions: the beautiful ranges of plantations and elegant houses particularly on the Fareham lake, cannot fail of striking the accidental visitor with admiration; and inspiring all with the highest idea of British grandeur, power and opulence.

TOWN OF GOSPORT.

Adde tot egregias urbes, operumque laborem,
Tot congesta manu præruptis oppida saxis,
Et maria antiquos subter labentia muros.

VIRGIL.

IT is not merely the noble and capacious Harbour, it is not merely the grandeur and magnificence of the Dock-yard, that can alone arrest the attention of a spectator; other circumstances also occur that unite in producing an effect highly interesting. Many are the places, where something is wanting to the completion of the scene. The expanse of water may be grand, but destitute of accompaniments; one object may perhaps arise, and seem to lord it over the whole, unsupported by any other of equal importance, the effect on the whole must be barren and

uninteresting. But when we meet with a wide spread water, with all its surrounding scenery in the highest perfection, whether we regard the works of nature or those of art, we no longer remain unsatisfied In this Harbour we find this remark completely verified; the grandeur and sublimity of an Alpine scene may be wanting; the deficiency of the rocky features of a northern lake may be felt, but in return we want not the softer features of the Italian landscape, nor the visible effects of the efforts of British industry. Here we observe this broad bosom of the waters, in its more retired parts adorned with the beauties of nature, while on the other we view it crowned with the noblest productions of art.

The harbour of Portesmouth is not only extremely noble in itself; nor even in the various beauties that every where present themselves; but also in the almost unparalleled circumstance of being surrounded by three well built towns, with their dependencies, forming a most noble retuary between the towns of Portesmouth, Portsea, and that of Gosport, seeming merely to separate one very considerable city; which ranging along its extensive shores is secondary in point of extent of building to very few; and in every other point equalled by none.

The visitor of this place cannot but be struck

with its superiority in this respect, nothing can more imperiously command his attention, than such a vast expanse so nobly bounded. The approach to Gosport by water is extremely fine, the different yards, the handsome ranges of houses on the beach, its ancient castle, the crowded key, the range of barracks and the extensive building of Weevil; the whole bounded on the left by the entrance of the harbour, the Block-house, the royal hospital at Haslar and its lake; and on the right by the magazine, Forton lake with the ancient castle at its entrance, present a prospect which we believe few could view without some emotion. Nor ere the approaches from the land side less interesting. The London road leads by Forton prison and the new military hospital, along the foot of the works; occasionally enlivened by a glimpse of the lake, and much enriched by the gardens and houses on either side, to the grand entrance of the town. Another road, from Alverstoke and the adjacent country far more private passes the elegant hamlet of Berry; and much adorned by the surrounding scenery, and the sight of Alverstoke lake, surmounted by the vast buildings of Haslar—enters the town on the south west. The southern entrance is from Haslar and fort Monkton, by means of a long bridge over the lake. This road leads from Alverstoke by fort Monkton and Haslar to Gosport

skirting the bay, and commanding the noblest prospects, opens to the admiring stranger a very fine view of Gosport and the adjacent objects. On this side are seen the town in front, extending far along the shores of the lake, with the harbour—Portesmouth and its numerous dependencies on the right; resounding with the noise of fervent toil and the busy hum of men; and on the left the more tranquil scene of the silently gliding waters, the woods and village of Alverstoke; and the noble buildings of the military hospital in the distance; while behind the great Portsdown rises in all its majesty.

The interior of this town does not in the least deceive the stranger, highly raised as his expectations may be; he does not find them disappointed from whatever point he enters. If from the London road he enters an open space to the left of which, is Weevil brewhouse and the barracks; oh the right is the Alverstoke gate, both of which roads uniting and commanding a fine inside view of the works, lead into North-street: another road also inclines from the last mentioned gate, leading to Middle and South streets. The entrance from Haslar is rather more confined, yet sufficiently commodious; here the works are unfinished and a gate is constructing. It passes the chapel, thence near Mr. Goodeve's brewhouse into South-street, a branch from this road com-

municates also with the bottom of South-street and the beach. Here is the approach from the water, and from its extent, its elevation and prospects is inferior to none: here is the opening of the principal streets of the town—on the left as you land, are some private docks, and warehouses and on the right the quay. In addittion to these, is also a private road from the magazine that passes by Weevil and the barracks. Almost the whole of this range is well and lately fortified, but the entire line is not yet finished. This fortification to an military eye, would seem trifling and useless; but to those who know well how to appreciate its strength, its merit will be fully apparent. The simple mound of earth is less easily destroyed, and the men less endangered by splinters; if we add to this all the improvements of modern military architecture, the command of the works, the flatness of the country, and the natural defence of the place by means of the lakes; and the numerous situations in the environs for military posts, which would require a length of time for the dislodgement of troops posted there previous to the formation of a regular seige, we trust we shall not be deemed too presumptuous if we assert, that the capture of this place would be attended with many and very considerable difficulties, exclusive of the annoyance an enemy would find, from the armed vessels stationed

in the lakes and the necessity of conducting his approaches only in one point. These works consist of a noble battery opposite the magazine, the usual line of bastions, redoubts, counterscarps, &c. which cross the space between the lakes, and will end at the point of Haslar lake near the harbour, where will be another battery that will cross its fire, with those at the mouth of the harbour, and will afford this place a great and additional security.

The town itself is handsome and populous, the principal street is Middle-street, which is broad and well built, extends westward from the harbour to the works, and is of a great length, and were it not for the obstruction of the market place, would be exceeded by few. Parallel to this on the left is South-street and Chapel-row; and on the right North-street and Cold-harbour—these are again united by north and south Cross-streets, Seahorse lane and several lesser lanes and alleys, exclusive of which are the streets and places that range along the works and the shore, particularly Portland place, and Brandy-mount. King-street extends from North-street opposite the crown towards the barracks. In this circuit we meet with more open spaces, and more eligible situations, than are commonly found in the generality of towns. Cold harbour is peculiarly fortunate in this respect;

being open to the harbour, ornamented with several rows of trees and entirely the residence of private families; excepting at the occasional time of the military parade affording an unusual scene of privacy and retirement. The circumstance of its having little or no connection with the more busy scenes of the town, and the advantage of a broad and extensive pavement on its southern side; with the agreeable addition of being occasionally enlivened by the charms of military music, has caused it to become the usual resort for the evening promenade of the ladies and gentlemen of this town and its environs where the gay assemblage of beauty and fashion cannot but give a stranger the highest and most favourable ideas of the place. Here are some very excellent houses, especially that of Mr. Curry, the extent and elevation of which adds much to the scene. A little below nearer the water, are two houses forming but one pile of building, with one portico or place of entrance to both: having the imposing appearance of one large mansion: on the opposite side, is a similar building: on the north side, is also a compact and uniform range of genteel houses, which add much to the general appearance. The upper end of Middle-street, has also some very capital houses: the three upper of which from their regularity seem

to form but one pile: and have an extremely noble air from whatever point they are viewed. Mr. Jellicoe's at the lower end of Middle-street, also deserves much notice; but it would be tedious and unnecessary to enumerate many others; it will be sufficient to say, that tho' some towns may be superior in particular points, few can excell this in convenience, comfort and general appearance and accommodation. The chapel is situated south of the town, surrounded by a large cemetery well planted; this building which was erected in the year 1730, is a chapel of ease to Alverstoke; it is large and handsome and has lately undergone a thorough repair. It is built of brick, with arched windows—and a large projecting roof with dormer windows in the old Dutch style; the entrance is appropiate, surmounted with a handsome cupola. The inside consists of a middle and two side aisles, with galleries on three sides: the view at the entrance is very pleasing, the long perspective of the side aisles, separated by lofty columns, the arched roof; and the semicircular recess for the communion table and bow windows with painted dome appear to much advantage: It is capable of accommodating a very considerable congregation. The pulpit and reading desk are handsome and well placed. Over the entrance, is a very fine and well toned organ, formerly the property of the great Duke of Chandos

and was placed in the chapel of his noble villa at Cannons; now totally levelled to the ground, and so well described by Pope under the name of Timon's villa: a neat and commodious vestry has also lately been added. A little to the south west of this, a large and noble house for the Minister, has lately been erected replete with every convenience: elegant apartments; appropriate offices, and a handsome garden; and enjoying a prospect over Spithead, to the Isle of Wight, together with Portesmouth, Haslar and Alverstoke.

There is also a large and commodious Meeting-house for dissenters from the established church, at the upper end of Middle-street; with a handsome house for the minister: and a Romish chapel near the centre of the same street. The liberal spirit of the inhabitants of this town, has not suffered the children of the poor. to be deprived of the necessary instructions in the knowledge of religion and other duties of their respective stations: several charity schools are established and supported by subscription both for boys and girls. There is a large work-house in South-street, airy and commodious, open to the works; there are besides some alms houses for poor widows. Several very excellent inns are established here, the principal of which are, the India arms,

Mr. Crease; the crown, Mr. Butcher; the dolphin, Mrs. Evans; the fountain, Mr. Crosby; and the theatre tavern, Mr. Smith. It cannot be supposed that a town like this can be destitute of a well supplied market; it has accordingly a much frequented one on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, when provisions, vegetables and other goods are brought from a considerable distance inland, as well as from the isle of Wight. It is also well supplied with fish, and notwithstanding the immense demand: every article is seldom dearer than in other places, and never exceeded in point of excellence. The shops are numerous, and so well furnished with the best commodities of every kind, as to leave little necessity for an application to the metropolis. Here are also some breweries, particularly Mr. Goodeve's, late Mr. Fiott's; and Mr. Whitcomb's: near the centre of Middle-street, and extending back to the green, is the foundry of Mr. Jellicoe, whose extensive business and large contracts with government necessarily employ a considerable number of artificers. This gentleman has also some considerable iron works at Fontly near Fareham. It would extend our limits too much, were to make mention of every thing: we cannot avoid noticing however, as a point of some consequence to families resident here and in the vicinity; that there is a long established and highly re-

spectable academy in Cold harbour, under the direction of William Burney, A. M. a gentleman of acknowledged merit in his profession, with classical and other assistants and attended by masters of considerable eminence in their respective professions, where young gentlemen are educated for the navy and army, public offices and the university. A boarding school for young ladies, has also been opened in the same part of the town, by the Miss Brissaults; whose experience and abilities are sufficiently known and cannot be too highly approciated. The situation of both these seminaries is extremely eligible in every respect. There are also other schools of some respectability in the town.

The new barracks: are situated north of the town near Weevil, very large and convenient, airy and open, directly opposite the great gates: they are capable of containing a very numerous regiment, and have besides a handsome pavilion for the accommodation of the officers. An additional barrack for the engineers, is now erecting to the north of this.

Weevil was formerly a private house, with a large garden on the skirts of the common, all which space is now enclosed by the new works, having been purchased by government: the kings brewery and cooperage have been removed here from Portesmouth

To the left of the entrance is the house and garden of the principal officer, further on the office, and immense range of storehouses, for wine, malt, hops, &c. to the right is the large brewhouse, water reservoir and the very extensive cooperage: all together forming an object well worthy attention. This place communicates with the sea, by means of a large bason and canal with extensive quays; close to which vessels of considerable burthen may lie, and take in their stores. A considerable number of small sloops are employed here—to carry wine, beer and water, to the respective ships.

The trade of Gosport is very considerable, particularly in time of peace, having then a direct communication with the opposite coast of France. Furnished with all these advantages as Gosport is, it also is an eligible place of residence in the additional point of amusement. During the winter there is a monthly assembly, extremely well attended; and also occasional concerts. A very superior theatre has been erected by Mr. Thornton, the proprietor of the theatre royal at Windsor, which for elegance accommodation, selection of pieces, and excellence of the performers, is exceeded by no provincial theatre whatsoever. The constant resident or accidental visitor has moreover the advantage of sea bathing,

for which purpose some very excellent machines are kept near the foot of the bridge. Thus what with pleasant walks, the delightful views, togtether with water parties, and all the various species of amusement, Gosport certainly deserves to be classed among towns of a very considerable rank. With regard to the government of the town; the police is well regulated and reflects much credit on the magistrates. Those scenes of dissoluteness, from which few places are free, and which in many even of our inland towns are too conspicuous, are here restricted to certain spots beyond which their effects are seldom felt; and indeed objects of a disgusting or disagreeable nature are far less frequent here than in the generality of sea ports: so not even a shadow of an objection on this account can be made against this place; the least acquaintance with which would fully refute the calumny of the interested or malevolent.

In these and other respects, and particularly during the late unfortunate period of the insubordination of the navy, much praise is due to the active and meritorious exertions of the principal inhabitants, and the present respectable magistrate. In this arduous and much to be lamented often too thankless office, this gentleman has conducted the public business of this place, with a regularity and attention that

demands the warmest gratitude from every supporter of the public peace, and every lover of order and propriety. The pursuer of intellectual acquirements, will also be much gratified in finding two excellent Libraries; one in North-street, belonging to Mr. Harding: the other an entensive well established one consisting of at this time more than fifteen thousand volumes; the property of Mr. Watts: Here gentlemen may be supplied with books, charts, maps, or instruments necessary in their respective professions. Of the history of this place, little more remains to be said, after the very ample mention made of it in our general history—and we shall therefore conclude with saying; that this town will we trust ever be found worthy the attention of the occasional visitor and a very eligible situation for a regular residence.

PARISH OF ALVERSTOKE.

How often have I paus'd on ev'ry charm;
The shelter'd cot, the cultivated farm:
The wide extended lake, the busy mill:
The decent church that topp'd the neighbouring hill.

GOLDSMITH.

THIS extensive parish deriving its name from the village of Alverstoke, and occupying a very considerable portion of that peninsula on which Gosport is situated; extends from the parishes of Crofton and Rowner, by which it is bounded to the north; quite to the sea; opposite Portesmouth and Spithead, being bounded on three sides by the waters of the harbour, Spithead, and that beautiful arm of the sea, that stretches beyond Southampton: including a very fine tract of country, fertile and populous.

The first object that naturally attracts the attention in the tour of this district, is the Royal Hospital at Haslar. This noble building which was raised at the very earnest recommendation of the Earl of Sandwich—was begun in the year 1746 and completed in 1762. It is situated on a fine dry gravelly soil, within four hundred yards of the landing place at the mouth of the lake, and within a very short distance and commanding a full view of the noble road of Spithead. The guard house nearly opposite the grand entrance, is a very neat military pavilion, where a constant guard is kept, to prevent tumult or desertion. To the left of the entrance, where are very handsome iron gates, is the lieutenant's office; and on the right the porters lodge. Here this magnificent building appears to great advantage. The regularity of it, the noble pediment, the arched entrance, and fine open space before it, with the officers houses, some necessary offices to the right and left, all unite in rendering it a peculiarly interesting object. The pediment designed by Mr. Pearce, is an admirable piece of sculpture in Portland stone: the principal objects of which, are his majesty's arms; navigation leaning on a rudder pouring balm into the wounds of a sailor; and the figure of commerce, all with their appropriate decorations. This front is 567 feet in length and the wings 553. This edifice is composed

of two ranges of building, with wide spaces like streets between them. The inside is a fine quadrangle, surrounded with arcades, 24 feet broad. To this the approach is through a large entrance, with three ranges of massive arches under a large hall, now used as a ward of one hundred feet long and fifty wide. The wards are all uniform, 60 feet long and twenty four broad, each accommodating, 20 patients—with apartments for nurses, and every convenience, particularly water, which is conveyed from a lofty tower, at the North west angle of this great enclosure. The drains are well contrived, and are washed by the tide every twenty four hours. The hospital will contain more than two thousand patients exclusive of attendants: behind is a large open, airing ground nearly a mile round, enclosed with a wall twelve feet high: to which the building opens on the west side, being only separated by a fine open iron skreen. In the centre of this is a handsome chapel 72 feet long by 36 broad, finished with a considerable degree of propriety and neatness. On the western side of this ground, has lately been erected, a very handsome row of houses; the centre one of which is a very handsome building, with attached offices, and noble apartments: each wing contains four very commodious houses, for officers. Behind these, is a very considerable inclosed burial ground.

The great national consequence this building is of the necessity of such a temporary asylum to those brave men who have hazarded their lives in battle, and have braved the rage of the most furious of the elements; cannot but be fully apparent; nor while thus attentive to these our brave defenders, has the nation been neglectful of the assertors of her military glory. Here indeed it is less necessary, as independant of the hospitals attached to each regiment, the confinement of a crowded deck, so pernicious to the sick at sea, seldom occurs in this service. Consequently the military hospital is required to be on a much smaller establishment. This building situated near Forton lake, to the north of the road leading from Forton to Gosport: consists of four pavilions united by an arcade, and each consisting of six large wards, with accommodations for attendants; reservoir of water, and every other convenience. The whole of this range is not yet finished; some houses for the officers, and other buildings are still to be erected; which when finished will form a most complete establishment. On the north side of the entrance of the lake is situated the magazine. Of the history and effects of powder in changing the whole military science we have already spoken. This building which is strongly arched and bomb proof, has a small cut running up from the harbour for the

convenience of a private communication in a place of such importance so highly necessary. Here all the powder for the use of his Majesty's navy is kept or in a magazine dependant on this lately built, in one of the islands near the top of the lake. A handsome range of houses is also erected for the officers. This place will be additionally strengthened by new fortifications, which will unite it with Gosport. At the head of this lake, near the village of Forton is the French prison a large range of various buildings, with all necessary offices, and a hospital; the whole secured by a strong fence, strictly guarded, and secluded from any of the public roads and walks. The village is large and populous, and being seated on the London road, must of course be advantaged by it. There is a large tide mill, on a bridge across the lake in the road to Hardway. This is a pleasant village situated on the very verge of the cliff; and overlooking the harbour. Returning hence, we see the neat little hamlet of Brockhurst, at a very little distance from which a road branches off, that leads to Berry, and there unites with the Gosport road to Alverstoke: this is an extremely pleasant village, situated at the edge of the common that leads down to the bay, and at the head of that lake that passes Haslar, branching into a variety of creeks unites with the harbour. The church is ancient; has a

good tower; a body and chancel: it is very neatly finished in the inside, is surrounded by a large cemetery, well planted; and makes on the whole a venerable and respectable appearance. There are several handsome houses in the neighbourhood, particularly the rectory, and and the house inhabited by Mr. Walmesly; Berry house, and the elegant cottage of Captain Thornborough. The charmingly retired hamlet of Privet, cannot fail of attracting notice: in short to enumerate all the scenes that deserve it, the beautiful rides and walks, with the views of the isle of Wight, particularly of the opening of the Wootton river; the charming scenery every where displayed, and the fine mixture of wood and water; the view of Haslar down the lake, would far exceed our limits. In short Gosport enjoys a most decided advantage over its neighbours in the important point of so agreeable and immediate an outlet; In addition to this circumstance those who prefer bathing in the open sea may enjoy it in Stoke bay in its highest perfection. The unsullied purity of the water and the firmness of the sand, give this bay the most decided superiority over bathing places in general: the defence of this place is amply provided for: the Blockhouse, at the south eastern point has already been noticed. The new and regular fortification of fort Monkton next succeeds, the covered battery towards the sea,

contains 32 pieces of heavy ordnance: and the numerous improvements in military architecture render this an object of the highest curiosity. The various changes of that inconstant element the sea, is here remarkably seen; while on the eastern side of the fort, a high and massive stone wall has been necessitated to be erected to preserve the shore and consequently the buildings of Haslar from its ravages: on the western side it has considerably retreated and almost from the foot of the old lines, is comparatively new land—these once stretched a considerable distance up the Southampton water, and doubtless in case of an emergency could again be made serviceable.

Thus we see this charming district, not only amply endowed by the liberal hand of nature, richly interspersed with wood and lawn, with elegant commodious villas; farms and comfortable cottages, enriched with every species of cultivation, from the garden to the cornfield; but amply secured by the hand of art—and from its highly favoured situation affording every advantage and every pleasure that can result from the vicinity of the scenes of business to the more agreeable and fascinating ones of rural retirement.

SPITHEAD, &c.

On either hand
Like a long wintry forest, groves of masts
Shoot up their ſpires; The bellowing sheets between
Poſſeſs the breezy void; the ſplendid barge along
Row'd regular to harmony; around
The boats light skimming ſtretch their oary wings.

THOMSON.

THIS immense expanse of water forms as it were the grand bond of union between all the various scenes that surround it. Without this noble road Portesmouth itself with all its other advantages, would become of far inferior consequence. This safe and capacious road extends between the continent of Hampshire and the isle of Wight nearly twenty miles in length and in many places more than three in breadth. In this extent it is capable of receiving the whole united navy of Europe; unexposed either to difficulty or danger: while the

high lands of the isle of Wight, the towns of Portesmouth and Gosport with the neighbouring eminences defend it from almost every wind; while the sand in a great measure breaks the force of the sea. The horse which extends from Southsea castle towards St. Helens, defends it on the east, the spit on the north and the Motherbank and No-mans land to the south. The ground is perfectly good for anchorage, and in every respect affords the finest naval station in the world. The Motherbank is the usual place for the Indiamen, and for ships under quarantine. Not far from which is the buoy of the unfortunate royal George: a catastrophe too well known, to need insertion here: to the right of this is Stokes bay, the general rendezvous for merchantmen and other vessels; but unfortunately rather too much exposed to the furious force of the western storms—here is the opening of the Southampton water; an arm of the sea that separating this side of the country from the New Forest receives the Tees and the Itching near Southampton. In front the soilent sea ranges from Cowes towards Lymington and Hurst castle and opens to the ocean beyond the Needles. To the south-east of Spithead extends the noble road of St. Helens so called from the adjoining village in the iele of Wight. Here is the general and final rendezvous of our fleets previous to their departure, and

opens to the ocean in every direction. This again communicates with Langston harbour and the other waters that run up to Chichester. To secure this great natural outward harbour from the transient efforts of an enemy, vessels of war are always placed in proper stations. A guard ship is always stationed at St. Helens. But that which carries the admiral's flag is usually at Spithead: during the present contest, the Royal William has had that honour, which ship though extremely old is still able to answer any ordinary service. From this point, we must not forget to mention, that intelligence is conveyed to the admiralty almost intantaneously by means of the Telegraph. Such indeed is the excellent arrangement of the whole of the business at this port, that it is impossible to be exceeded. Nor can any spot in Europe, afford such animating prospects, or cause such lively emotions: but we do not wish to anticipate the judgement of its visitors, but leave it to them to determine whether it is unworthy of such a character.

ENVIRONS, &c.

Here lawns extend that scorn Arcadian pride;
And brighter streams than fam'd Hydaspes glide:
The breezy hill, the yellow blossom'd vale;
The willow tufted bank, the gliding sail:
The crowded mart; the cultivated plain,
Where health and plenty cheer the labouring swain.

GOLDSMITH.

AFTER having enumerated the immediate parts of this district, it will not perhaps be unacceptable to the reader to be presented with a small sketch of the surrounding country, as he may wish on his visit to this place to extend his tour, it will serve to give him some additional information on this point. In this view the isle of Wight naturally takes the lead: this beautiful island set like a precious stone in the midst of a silver sea; has long been the admiration of all its visitors: it is about twenty four miles in length,

thirteen in breath; being of an eliptical figure, and about sixty miles in circumference. It is divided into two parts by the river Mede, the east and west Medine and includes about 100,000 acres and thirty parishes; with as many thousand inhabitants. The air salubrious: Through the middle of the island runs a fine range of hills, with great quantities of chalk and marl, and feeding immense numbers of sheep. This island was subdued after many severe struggles by Vesperian; when after adopting the refinement of its conquerors, it remained quiet, till the irruption of Cerdic the Saxon; it was afterwards brought under the Norman yoke by William Fitzosborne; who had the grant of it as Lord; it afterwards was granted to the Earl of Devonshire, and was finally annexed to the crown by Edward the 1st. It has suffered much by invasions; but the gallantry of the inhabitants has generally succeded in repelling them: and the superiority of our fleets, the high state of our military discipline; place its security beyond all doubt. The principal town is Newport, it is well built and remarkable for its air of neatness and regularity, the streets are broad and run at right angles; it is governed by a mayor and aldermen and sends two members to parliament. The two other boroughs are Newton and Yarmouth; the former a decayed town, and the other containing little particular.

Cowes is the principal commercial town, and also an elegant watering place. Of the antiquities, the venerable ruins of Carisbrook chiefly deserve attention—it was erected by Whitgar the Saxon; there are also some considerable works of more modern date. The princely mansion of the Worseleys, at Appledercomb: Steephill cottage and other elegant seats will also claim some regard. The romantic beauties of the south west coast, Shanklin Chine, St. Christopher's cliffs where the dreadful trade of samphire gathering and bird catching is still pursued; and the immense rocks round Freshwater with the Needles, must also be visited; a particular description of which cannot be expected in a limited publication. The visitor will then probably pass over to the opposite shore: and after viewing the elegant and charming town of Lymington, with its beautiful environs; perhaps also examining Christchurch, and the shores of the sweet river Avon, as far as Ringwood, Fordingbridge will proceed to visit Salisbury, with its noble cathedral, old Sarum and that stupendous monument of Stone Henge.

The vast extent of the New forest, its charming umbrageous coverts, which as Shakespeare so sweetly expresses it; are more free from peril than the envious court, will fill the mind with the most pleasing

ideas. These may perhaps be interrupted by the recollection of the tyranny of William the Norman. His cruelty has been too much exaggerated, instead of the towns, villages and numerous churches that he is said to have destroyed, his own records mention but two obscure ones: here was a forest previous to his accession, anciently called Itenè. A pillar has been erected by Lord Delaware, in 1745, on the site of the tree near which his son Rufus was slain; the decendants of the man whose name was Purkess, who carried his body to Winchester in his little cart, still remain nearly in the same circumstances, namely makers of charcoal. In this forest are the towns of Lyndhurst and Beaulieu, the former celebrated for its royal hunting seat, the latter for the remains of its venerable abbey. Hence he will pass to Southampton, through the most beautiful scenery: having inspected its noble buildings particularly the Polygon, he will be much struck with its surrounding beauties, particularly the seat of Lord Palmerston, near Rumsey, Bevis mount, General Stibbert's, Mr. Middleton's, Mr. Fleming's, Belvidere; and the noble views in the road to Winchester. He will also be eager to visit the picturesque netley, the ruins of a Cistertian abbey founded by Henry the Third. The deep woods bending in a circle round it; the awful gloom of the place, and the ivy mantled walls will

fill him with a pleasing melancholy, he will look with regret on these ancient ruins; once the abode of piety and learning, now open to all the injuries of the ruthless storm. The spreading foliage of the forest of Bere, with all its delightful scenery next presents itself with the town of Waltham, and the charming village of Wickam, the birth place of the venerable prelate of that name: to the right lay the towns of Titchfield and Fareham, the former remarkable for the remains of the ancient mansion erected by Sir Thomas Wriothesly to whom it was granted on the general dissolution of Monasteries; thence it came to the Delmeas. The grand turreted gate and fine hall yet remain: These towns are pleasantly situated and the neighbourhood abound with gentleman's seats particularly the new built one of Admiral Dixon and Cams place. Hence we pass to Portchester, a long neat village famous for its gardens—at the end of which is the ancient castle. The history of it has been already noticed, the building itself is yet tolerably entire; and while other castles either in the silent lapse of time, or the fury of civil commotions, have been levelled to the ground, this has still survived the revolution of ages. This castle the internal side of which is 443 feet, contains more than four acres. The keep or great tower is a parallelogram of 115 by 65 feet: three of the great towers are now standing

The church is of great antiquity, and is fully proved by the peculiarity of part of its architecture to be in a great measure saxon. This castle is now the property of Mr. Thistlethwaite and rented by government as a place of confinement for French prisoners, of whom there have been at a time more than 5000. Above this extends the noble hill of Portsdown from Fareham as far as Havant, commanding some of the finest and most varied views in the South of England. Behind this hill is Southwick, formerly a religious house, of black Canons of the order of St. Augustine, removed from Portchester, and granted to the Norton family: the uncommon will of the last of which was set aside on account of insanity; and it has since decended to the Thistlethwaites. The elegant seat of Mr. Taylor called Purbrook house, with the towns of Petersfield, Petworth, Chichester and Havant and the seats of Lord Egremont, the Duke of Richmond, and Mr. Barwell will conclude this noble and pleasing tour. From the whole of this circuit much information may be obtained, much pleasure enjoyed, and the most pleasing ideas communicated. The salubrity of the air round Portesmouth, is evident from the circumstance of no reptiles being found in its vicinity; nor is it by any means infested with those fogs, to which inland towns are often subject Thus. then the excellence of the climate, the fertility of the

soil, the exertions of the inhabitants, particularly in the numerous volunteer corps; whose martial appearance and excellent state of discipline cannot be exceeded; their general comfort, their enjoyment of every blessing; the resources and energy of the British nation here displayed—will fill the visitor with admiration; and he will be so conscious of its universal unanimity; its invincible strength; and its impregnable situation; as to exclaim in the words of the Poet.

England never did, nor never shall
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror,
But when it first did help to wound itself
Come the four corners of the World in arms:
And we shall shock them; Nought can make us rue
If England to itself do rest but true.

COMMERCIAL INCIDENTS.

Town of Portesmouth.

THE POST OFFICE is situated near the upper end of St. Thomas's-street, where all Letters intended for *London*, must be put into the office by a quarter before 7, as the bag is closed precisely at seven.

The *Western* or CROSS POST, leaves this office exactly at 5 o'Clock; therefore all letters must be sent before 5

The *Navy Post Office*, MR. CUNNINGHAM'S, on the Point; all Letters put in this office before ten o'Clock every morning, will be delivered the same day at Spithead.

BANKS.

MESSRS. Griffith, Drew, and Godwin, High street.

Messrs. Grant and Burbey, opposite the Market house, High-street.

COACHES.

THE Mail Coach sets out from Mr. Cross's, the *Crown Inn*, *High-street*, at 7 every evening, to the Angel Inn, behind St. Clements: and returns from thence at the same time.

MR. CLARK'S Post Coach, sets out every evening at 6 o'Clock from the two Blue Posts, Broad-street, to the Cross Keys and Spread Eagle, Gracechurch-street, *London*; and returns from thence at the same hour. Also one sets out at 8 in the evening; and returns from thence the same hour.

A Light Coach sets out from MR. PALMERS, the George Inn, every morning at 6 o'Clock, to the Bell Savage, Ludgate hill; and returns from thence at the same hour.

A Post Coach sets out every morning from the Two Blue Posts, Broad-street and the Crown Inn, every morning at 5 o'Clock, to the Golden Cross Charing cross; and returns at the same hour.

A long Coach sets out from MR. CROSS'S the Crown Inn, to Southampton, Salisbury, Bath and Bristol, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon; and from Gosport every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, to the White Hart Inn, Bristol; and returns at the same hour.

The Chichester, and Brighthelmstone mail Coach, sets out every morning from the Crown Inn, at 8

o'Clock and at 3 o'Clock in the afternoon, to the Swan Inn, Chichester; and returns from thence at the same hour.

R. Rook's expeditious Coach, the *Nelson*, goes from his office, Point-street, Portesmouth, and from his house, No. 156, Queen-street, Portsea, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, at Five o'Clock; stops at Botley, Southampton, Romsey, and arrives at the Three Swans, Salisbury, regularly at 3 o'Clock; and returns the following mornings at 6 o'Clock; and arrives at his Warehouse, Point-street, Portesmouth, at 4 o'Clock the same evening.

WAGGONS.

MR. CLARK'S, Waggons, set out from the Two Blue Posts, Broad-street, every morning at eleven o'Clock, to the White Hart and King's Head Inns, *Borough of Southwark*; and return from thence at the same hour.

Mr. Russel's Waggons, set out every morning at 11 o'Clock from Broad-street, to the old Ship Inn, *Borough* and Cross Keys, Wood-street, *Cheapside*, and return from thence at the same hour.

Chichester Waggon sets out from the Red Lion, High-street, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; and arrives Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

PACKET BOATS AND VESSELS,

To the Isle of Wight, &c.

STEVENS's Vessel to Cowes, every day: the

master to be spoken with at Mr. Cunninghams, the Navy Post office, Point.

BEEZELEY'S Vessel from Ryde, every morning and returns at 2 o'Clock, where a Coach waits the arrival of the Vessel, to convey goods and passengers to Newport. The master may be spoken with at the Quebec Tavern near the bathing house, Point.

CHAMBER'S Boat to Newport, every Saturday morning; every other morning to Ryde, and returns in the evening. Master to be spoken with at the Quebec Tavern, Point.

FIANDER'S and BURT'S Vessels to Pool, once every week. The masters to be spoken with at the True Blue, on the Point.

WEEK'S and TARVER'S Vessels to Southampton, 3 times every week. The masters to be spoken with at the White Hart, on the Point.

TARVER'S Vessel to Lymington. The master to be spoken with at the Plymouth Arms, Town quay.

A Lymington Vessel from the White Hart, Point, once a week.

Two commodious boats set off every morning about 8 o'Clock, from the White Hart, Common Hard, Portsea, to Portchester: and returns every evening.

Strangers and visitors are to take notice, that the

departure of Vessels are governed by the weather and tide, therefore enquiries should be made early at the houses before mentioned.

Town of Gosport.

THE POST OFFICE is situated near the upper end of North-street, and nearly facing Cross-street; where all Letters intended for *London*, must be put in the Letter box a quarter before six o'Clock in the afterternoon, as the bag is sealed exactly at 6 o'Clock.

All Letters intended for the *Western Cross post*, must be put into the Letter box a quarter before 4 in the afternoon.

COACHES.

The *Telegraph* a day Coach, sets out every morning at 5 o'Clock from MR. CREASE'S, the India Arms Inn, Middle-street; to the White Horse, Fetter-lane London, and returns at the same hour.

A Post Coach sets out every evening at 6 o'Clock, from MR. PADWICKS Office, the lower end of Middle-street, to the Cross Keys. Gracechurch-street London; and returns from thence at the same hour.

Post Coach sets out every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from the India Arms Inn, Middle-street: passes through Fareham, Wickham, Waltham, Bot-

ley, Southampton, Romsey, Salisbury, Bath, to the Bush Inn, Bristol; and returns from thence every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The *Western Telegraph* and *Mail Coach*, sets out every evening at 5 o'Clock from the Waterman's Arms, the lower end of North-street: passes through Fareham, Wickham, Waltham, Winchester, Stockbridge, to the six Bells, Salisbury, where it meets the Exeter and Plymouth Coaches; and returns from Salisbury at twelve at night; and arrives at Gosport, at 9 o'Clock each morning.

WAGGONS, &c.

KNIGHT's, Gosport Waggon, passes through Alton, Farnham, Egham, &c. Set out from the Warehouse on the *Beach*, every Tuesday and Saturday morning, and arrives at the Warehouse, the *New Inn, Old-Bailey, London*, every Tuesday and Thursday; and returns to *Gosport and Portesmouth*, every Wednesday and Friday Morning.

PADWICK's Waggons, set out from his Warehouse Middle-street, every morning at 9 o'Clock, to the *Bell Savage Inn, Ludgate-hill*; and return from thence every morning at 9 o'Clock.

PADWICK's *West* country Waggon, sets out from his Warehouse in Middle-street, every Tuesday, morning at 10 o'Clock; passes through Winchester, Salisbury, Bath, Bristol, Exeter Plymouth, and all parts of the West of England; arrives every Monday evening.

HIBBERD's Caravan, sets off opposite the India Arms Inn, to Salisbury and the West country, every Monday, and Thursda ; and returns from thence every Monday and Wednesday.

NEWBERRY and SEEWARD's West country Waggon, sets out from their office, North-street, every Monday morning; and returns every Wednesday evening. takes in goods and passengers to all parts of the West country.

HABBENS's Waggon to Salisbury, sets out every Monday morning from Forton, where it takes up goods and passengers for all parts of the West country; and returns every Wednesday evening.

The Bathing Machines are situated near the bridge, leading to Haslar hospital: also in Stokes bay, on a fine gravelly beach. The *Terms*: 1 Shilling for the first time of bathing and after 6d.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM

ERRATA

Page.	Line.	
10	13	vestigation *read* investigation
4	10	cannons *read* canons
	17	after gave add *it*
4	4	wonderful *read* wonderfully
6	27	literally *read* liberally
14	13	magnificiencé *read* magnificent
17	1	for views from *read* views. From
20	19	cupolœ *read* cupola
23	19	afford *read* affords
27	3	to account of, add *the*
30	4	before commanders, add *the*
	23	is not, add a *dele* all and put only
32	2	excellent *read* excellently
40	20	dispute *read* dissipate
60	15	remarkable *read* remarkably
78	6	contribute *read* constitute
85	20	retuary *read* estuary
88	81	military *read* unmilitary
93	24	after were add *we*
106	21	soilent *read* solent
109	10	Vesperian *read* Vespasian

579 c 43/4